THE ARCHITECT AND MONETARIAN;

A

BRIEF MEMOIR

OF

THOMAS ALEXANDER TEFFT,

INCLUDING

HIS LABORS IN EUROPE TO ESTABLISH A UNIVERSAL CURRENCY.

BY EDWIN MARTIN STONE.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
1869
CITY OF WASHINGTON

PROVIDENCE:
SIDNEY S. RIDER AND BROTHER.
1869.

NA737
.T4 S7

PROVIDENCE PRESS COMPANY, PRINTERS.

R.I.H.S. June 5, 1914

MEMOIR.

IN the summer of 1845, a young man, apparently about nineteen or twenty years of age, came to Providence from the country to acquire a knowledge of Architecture, and thus fit himself for a business that Tallman, Bucklin, Warren and others had gradually worked up into a distinct profession in Rhode Island. He was slender in form and of medium height. His oval face and naturally fair complexion were bronzed by successive years of exposure in the toils of the farm. His hair, a light brown, approaching to flaxen, was brushed back from a forehead of medium height. His slightly compressed lips gave to a mouth not over large, an expression of firmness, and his dark grey eyes, quick and penetrating, evidently permitted nothing worthy of notice to escape observation. His manner was marked by a certain degree of independence, and his whole bearing was of one who, self-conscious of native power, had made up his mind to succeed in whatever he undertook.* This young

* As an illustration of this trait, the following incident is related: In his early residence in Providence he wore for a guard to his watch, with some apparent complacency, a piece of common flaxen cord. When proffered a more becoming article, he respectfully but decidedly declined it, considering the cord thus utilized more appropriate to his circumstances. In later years, under a favorable change in pecuniary ability, he procured a valuable chain made to order in London, in accordance with his taste. To the common observer, this seemed a whim — a mere out-cropping of oddity; while to him it was a matter of principle. In the first instance, he remembered that he was a student with stinted means — in the second, a peer with the gifted minds of a realm.

man was THOMAS ALEXANDER TEFFT, son of William C. and Sarah Tefft, and was born in Richmond, R. I., August 3, 1826.

The house of his birth, located near "Wilbur Hill," was of a style common during the latter part of the last century, and now occasionally seen as a relic of the olden time. The back roof extended to within six or eight feet of the ground, affording space in the rear of the main rooms to be used for dairy room, wash room and other purposes. At one end of the house was the well, whose refreshing water was drawn with a primitive pole and hook, and at the other the gate entrance to the garden. The scenery viewed from the front door was quiet and soothing, with just enough of the picturesque to awaken in a young mind a sense of the beautiful. For this place Mr. Tefft cherished a strong attachment, both from the tender memories of childhood, and from the fact that it was a family inheritance that could be traced back in ancestral line to an original Indian grant. A pencil sketch of the Old Homestead, made by him, is still extant, underneath which he wrote the following lines:

> Is there one who loves not to linger where
> His early days were passed without a care?
> To trace the long dim vista of the past,
> And live again the scenes so quickly lost?

In childhood Mr. Tefft's bodily health was feeble, and gave no promise of the physical energy and power of endurance displayed in subsequent years. For the sports common to boy-life he seemed to care but little. In books he found a greater charm than in the bat and ball, and he was never happier than when engaged in mastering the contents of an instructive volume or in constructing miniature machinery, for which his skill was remarkable. At about the age of ten years he entered a school kept by Mr. Elisha L. Baggs, with whom he remained two and a half years, making rapid progress in the several studies pursued, and evincing a thoroughness in the preparation of his lessons that foreshadowed the habits of his maturer years. For penmanship and drawing he displayed a decided taste, and with the aid afforded him by his instructor made commendable proficiency in these

arts. Specimens of his ornamental writing are yet preserved, that for beauty of finish would be creditable to an accomplished teacher. Music also enlisted his interest, and many of his evening hours were enlivened with the flute, of which he had made himself master. While yet a student, one of the occupations of leisure moments was the cutting upon wood of a set of music type, with which he printed neatly and accurately a favorite tune to be sung in the following words, expressive of feeling and thought that often at that period possessed him:

"Shed not a tear o'er your friend's early bier,
When I am gone;
Smile if the slow tolling bell you should hear,
When I am gone.
Weep not for me when you stand round my grave,
Think who has died his beloved to save,
When I am gone.

Plant ye a tree which may wave over me,
When I am gone;
Sing me a song if my grave you should see,
When I am gone.
Come at the close of a bright summer's day,
Come when the sun sheds his last ling'ring ray,
Come and rejoice that I thus past away,
When I am gone."

At the age of seventeen years Mr. Tefft took charge of a school at the Four Corners, in his native town. To this new and responsible occupation he brought the forces of an ardent nature and a determination to achieve success, the effects of which were soon apparent in the order, industry and improvement of his pupils.

While thus employed, our young pedagogue was made sensible that a higher culture than he had yet received would be a powerful auxiliary to his wider usefulness as a teacher, as it would be an invaluable help in whatever other pursuit he might engage. This he resolved to possess. Having closed his stipulated term of service, he returned to his old instructor, and applied himself diligently to a course of advanced studies, defraying his expenses with the money he had earned by teaching. It

was about this time that he attracted the attention of Hon. Henry Barnard, then State School Commissioner for Rhode Island, who was at once impressed with his energy, intelligence and power as a teacher, his love of the beautiful in nature and art, and his taste and skill in drawing. He said to him in substance, "You must not bury yourself here in obscurity. Go to Providence and study architecture. Make that your profession, and let our State have the benefit of your acquirements in a department whose esthetic claims have too long been neglected." The counsel found a ready response in a mind panting for wider scope than farm life or a rural district school could promise. Visions consonant with his higher aspirations now broke upon his view, and the outlines of a bright future seemed clearly defined. Abandoning the thought of school keeping, he went to Providence, and after settling preliminaries entered the office of Messrs. Tallman and Bucklin, where his opportunities for study and practice were ample. In the family of the latter he found a home ever after cherished with filial tenderness.

In this new pursuit young Tefft engaged with ardor and singleness of purpose, but in every step of his progress he felt how important a help a still more extended and thorough intellectual culture might be made to his chosen profession. Again advised by his friendly mentor, he entered Brown University and pursued the prescribed course of studies there without relinquishing those in which he was already engaged as a student of architecture — his industry as a draughtsman enabling him to defray his college expenses.

As a student, Mr. Tefft was noted for persistent faithfulness rather than for brilliancy. "In his studies," writes President Caswell, then his college Professor, "his aim seemed to be to master the subject — to work out the problem or the argument in all its bearings, without any reference to the best mode of presenting it to the minds of others. In the scientific studies pursued under my direction, with very fair abilities to acquire anything which was presented in the lecture or the text-books, he was hardly satisfied with following the beaten track. His

mind was constantly suggesting and devising methods of his own; looking at a question from different stand-points, and seeking a solution by different modes of approach. This was, I think, a characteristic of his mind. He had to a larger extent than most young men the power and habit of original investigation. His suggestions were often untenable, but that he would himself discover as he penetrated farther and farther into the logical relations of the subject. He was constitutionally self-reliant, and showed very little disposition to abandon his opinions upon mere advice."*

At the outset of his college life, his recitations were embarrassed by an apparent inability to readily command language to express his ideas even where his knowledge was full and exact. How he struggled to overcome this difficulty, and how he triumphed in the effort, the following account by Professor George W. Greene, his tutor in French, will show. He says:

"My first sight of Tefft was in my class room, at Brown University. I was struck from the first with the earnestness of his face and the undivided attention with which he followed the recitation. It was something I had never met with before in that form: an eagerness to learn and understand which seemed to master his physical as well as his intellectual nature and held him in a tension of both that was almost painful to look upon. In a day or two I called upon him to translate a paragraph from the Bourgeois gentilhomme. And here the tension became a struggle — the struggle of an indomitable will against an almost insuperable obstacle. He had no command of language. Every word that he uttered cost him a severe effort. Even the organs of his mouth seemed to oppose as obstinate a resistance to his will as the organs of thought. And the harder the effort the firmer did he plant his feet on the floor and more iron-like grew the rigidity of his face. The words came—slowly — reluctantly — one by one, with a struggle for each, dragged out as unwilling boys are dragged to school. But they came — the right words and the right rendering. It was evident that he understood both his lesson and himself.

"I quickly became much interested in him, had him often at my room, talked with him about artists and art, and as I watched his

* Letter to the author.

progress was more and more convinced that he would succeed. He aimed high — very high — worked constantly with a definite purpose and a lofty ideal. I could see, too, that this ideal was constantly growing and expanding with every new step forward: but that he was not afraid of the labor which his growth imposed, nor discouraged when the result of that labor fell below his conception. He was resolved to be an architect cost what it might, and he was convinced that the true architect is a benefactor of society.

"Like most men who begin their studies late, he was tenacious of his opinion; and if he had ever ceased to grow, would have stiffened into a rigid conservatism. But progress was an essential element of his intellectual nature, and his prejudices seemed to drop from him one by one, leaving him still eager for improvement, and still confident that it was within his reach. In time he overcame the difficulty of speech, and obtained a satisfactory command of language. It was one of the most remarkable triumphs of a strong will, well directed, that I ever knew."*

It was while yet a student, that Mr. Tefft designed the neat and unique school building on Benefit street, Providence, erected and occupied by Hon. John Kingsbury during the later years of his celebrated School for Young Ladies, and now occupied for a similar purpose by Rev. Dr. Stockbridge. The circumstances of its inception and construction as related by Mr. Kingsbury, are as follow:

"In the year 1848 I decided to erect, for the use of a Young Ladies' School, a building which should, so far as a wise economy would allow, unite utility and architectural beauty. In the furtherance of this design, I made application to James C. Bucklin, Esq., of this city. After presenting to him my object, he turned to a young man in his office whom he called Thomas, and introduced him in the following words: 'Here is a young man who can accomplish what you want better than I can.' Looking upon Mr. Bucklin as the head of his profession, I was much surprised; and my surprise was not diminished by the extremely youthful and somewhat diminutive appearance of Mr. Tefft. He showed me plans of several small churches and other buildings which he had designed chiefly in the Gothic style,

* Letter to the author.

which, in general features, he thought, would meet my wishes. To these designs I made objections. The Gothic style was too sombre for a school room; an open roof would make the building difficult to be warmed; stained glass windows would furnish a bad light and would not allow of sufficient ventilation. In reply he said, let the style be Romanesque, which is both cheerful and beautiful: let the ceiling be panneled and show only the lower part of the truss-work: and let the stained glass be frosted to prevent any color from passing through it, and set in frames which can be opened like doors. Thus my objections one by one were removed; and I was forcibly struck with the versatility and readiness with which it was done. Had he lived many years and had much experience it could not have been done more successfully. As he was born and bred in the most rural part of this State, where he had no opportunity to become acquainted with architecture; and as he had been in the office of Messrs. Tallman & Bucklin but a short period of time, it seemed to me then, and it is my opinion now, that he possessed a remarkable degree of what is so rare in this world — real genius.

In short he was engaged to furnish plans of a building and to superintend its erection. He was limited by the size and shape of the lot; by the height of the building, it being within the fire limits of the city; and by the amount of money to be expended. When the building was completed, it was visited by a distinguished architect from Boston, who, on being told of the circumstances, made this remarkable assertion: "He has done all that mortal man could do." It is now more than twenty years since this building was erected. Though the exterior is not striking yet the interior stands to-day, so far as I know, without a rival in American architecture. Its perfect adaptation to its intended use; its symmetry, beauty and harmony combined to make it a part and parcel of the education which is received within its walls. It is as beautiful to-day as when the last finishing touch was put upon it.

A remarkable trait of Mr. Tefft's character was pertenacity in maintaining and defending his opinions. This sometimes brought upon him the censure of builders and even that of his patrons. The following may serve as an illustration in connection with this sketch. He had given the painter a color for the walls and ceiling. The paint was accordingly prepared. Before it was applied, Mr. Tefft required that some of it should be put upon a board, and held

up as high as the ceiling, that he might judge of its adaptation. It did not suit him, as it was too dark. He directed the painter to change it by the admixture of white paint. The painter objected, as it was the color which Mr. Tefft himself had selected. To change the color would spoil it. Besides he had not the means at hand to make the change, and his shop was a mile away. Mr. Tefft replied with firmness that not a particle should be applied till the change was made. At length the white paint was brought and some of it was mixed with the prescribed color, and put upon the board. "Not light enough yet," said Mr. Tefft. "More will spoil it," replied the painter. "Put in *more — more still*," was the direction. The trial was now made, and satisfied the architect. The building was finished and was much admired by those who were esteemed good judges. One lady who was regarded as a very severe critic, on entering the room remarked, "There is something here that I have never felt elsewhere. What is it?" Please observe for yourself. After sitting ten or fifteen minutes she said, "I have made the discovery. It is *repose* resulting from the perfect harmony of all the parts." As an amusing illustration of one phase of human nature this very painter who had so persistently opposed Mr. Tefft, claimed the credit so far as the painting was concerned!"*

In the same year that Mr. Kingsbury's school house was erected, and while still pursuing his University studies, Mr. Tefft designed the Boston and Providence Depot, a structure seven hundred and fifty feet in length, having two towers each one hundred and twenty feet in height.† It excited no little surprise that the plans of one so young and so little known, should have been adopted, and it was no empty compliment to his genius that they were. This was his first great work, and though interior changes have since been made to adapt it to the wants of an increased business, criticism will find few faults in view of the uses originally designed to be made of it.‡ In this structure Mr. Tefft developed a favorite idea of ornamental brick architecture, and adopted the Lombardic style as best adapted

* Letter to the author

† The building was erected in 1848, under the superintendance of James C. Bucklin, Esq.

‡ Note A—Appendix.

to the purpose. It was the first attempt of the kind in this country; giving to brick a first-class place among building materials, and showing "that the character of a building depends rather upon the thought of the architect than the material of the builder."

In 1851, Mr. Tefft completed his University course, and graduated with the degree of Bachelor of Philosophy. He now commenced a new career, and opened an office for practical work. Business flowed in upon him, and his pecuniary prospects were flattering. Besides many private residences and other buildings planned by him, he furnished designs for the South Baptist Church in Hartford, Conn.; American Antiquarian Society's Library, Worcester, Mass.; Williams College Library; Female Institute, Richmond, Va.; Factory at Cannelton on the Ohio; Central Congregational and Central Baptist Churches, and the Organ Case of the First Congregational Church in Providence; Baptist Churches in Wakefield and in South Kingstown, and St. Paul's Church in Wickford,—all evidences of the taste and versatile talent of the Architect.

Mr. Tefft sympathised warmly with many persons of culture in his adopted city in their efforts to elevate the public taste in matters of Art, and when the Rhode Island Art Association was organized he took an active and prominent part in its operations. A fine gallery of paintings was formed by the voluntary contributions of its members, together with pencil drawings, engravings and some choice specimens of statuary. It was intended to make this gallery a place of resort not only for the public generally, but for students and young artists, who could here form their tastes after approved schools, and at the same time acquire facility in the composition of pictures and naturalness in coloring. Mr. Tefft, as one of the Directors, had much to do with the fitting up of the gallery, which was opened in a hall in Waterman's Block. The Association in this early dawning of an Art taste among us had many difficulties to encounter, and after a few years its operations were suspended. Yet it continued long enough to awaken a wide interest in the several departments

of Painting, Architecture and Sculpture, and some who have since taken an honorable rank in one or the other of these professions here received an impulse that moved them on to success.

In the midst of these material activities, and of plans for the life opening before him, he was not unmindful of the spiritual relations man holds to his Creator, and the responsibilities with which an immortal nature is invested. From a conviction of duty, no less than from a sense of privilege, he early assumed an unequivocal position as a Christian believer, by uniting with the First Baptist Church in Providence.* As a teacher in the Sunday School, he was faithful and earnest, and the seed thoughts sown from sabbath to sabbath fell with a blessing upon receptive hearts.

Mr. Tefft was now prepared to settle down in his profession, with prospect of competency, if not more. But it was not for a temperament like his to be contented with even prosperous mediocrity. His Ideal had not yet been realized. He was an enthusiastic lover of his chosen profession, and ambitious to excel. He longed to go abroad and study the master architectural structures of Europe, and when perfected in every order and department to return home, and through lectures and through the regular channels of his business pour out his rich accumulations for the benefit of his country. It was a grand vision for a young man. Soon the realization of this longing became a necessity of his nature, and the preliminary steps to gratify it were taken. Having, with becoming thoughtfulness and deliberation arranged his worldly affairs, he departed for Europe in the steamer *Arago*, on Saturday, Dec. 13th, 1856.

On arriving in London, Mr. Tefft met with a cordial and gratifying reception, both from American residents and English gentlemen of high social position. Special attentions were received from Owen Jones, Cropsey, Ruskin, Parkes, Scott, Bennett, Sargent, Hastings, Webster, Donaldson, of the Royal Institute of British Architects, George Peabody, Hall, B. Moran of the U. S. Legation, Ex-Governor Hamilton Fish, Sir Chas.

* Note B—Appendix.

Barry, and many others, with whom pleasant intimacies and friendships were formed. The privileges of the Athenæum were also accorded him. Through the gentlemen just mentioned ample opportunities were afforded for studying the Architecture of the British metropolis and for becoming familiar with the treasures of Art. Of these opportunities Mr. Tefft industriously availed, and during his residence in London few objects of interest or value to his studies escaped his eager examination. St. Paul's, the glory of Sir Christopher Wren, Westminster Abbey, the Crystal Palace, Parliament House, and other celebrated structures, were inspected from an architectural stand point, and the suggestions furnished by each, that could be converted to professional use, were carefully stored in his memory. With the New Parliament House, the work of Sir Charles Barry, Mr. Tefft was particularly pleased. Writing of it he says:

"To Sir Charles Barry belongs the singular good fortune and high honor of having completed within his own day, from his own plans, and under his own supervision, one of the greatest and richest monuments the world has seen. For, in extent, elaborate treatment, and unity of style, there is no parallel to the New Houses of Parliament. I have looked at the immense pile from Waterloo and Vauxhall bridges, — from the cupola of St. Paul's, and from the Greenwich hills, — seen it at mid-day and by moonlight, — and the more I see it, the more am I charmed with this majestic work, and the more do I admire that power in man which can conceive of such forms of magnificence, — and triumphing over all obstacles build them high above the earth to catch the light of morning, — to reflect the same at evening, — and receive the gaze of passing generations. The towers of Westminster worthily represent the Victoria age. One is novel and useful, the other is majestic and symbolic of pride and power. Both are exceedingly beautiful, and neither one has an equal.

"The architect of this great work, who received his commission by competing for it, has watched the rising of the stones until the Victoria Tower, which is twenty-five feet square, has received its finishing touch at the height of three hundred and forty feet in a gilt crown upon each of the corner turrets. As I write, the beautiful work at the extreme top is being revealed to the view by the removal of the staging.

"I regarded it as a great treat to go through this building with the Architect. Sir Charles is my ideal of an Englishman in physical energy and intellectual vigor. He is not tall as Englishmen usually are, but rather stout, has a generous round face, a very broad forehead, with a twinkle and conscious power in his eye. He evidently reads his man at a glance. With rather a family air and an affable manner, the great architect started to show me his work of a quarter of a century, by commencing at the Peers' private entrance. He first showed me his method of breaking up the vestibule by ranges of arches, so that you are unconscious of the limited height of the first or basement story. Then he pointed out the fine luminous effect of gilding when opposite and remote from a window, — employing it in this instance to cheer up a stair to the main floor above. On reaching the grand cross corridor, where richly carved oak work and polychromatic decorations were well applied, I was struck with the artistic effect in the long hall or corridor, produced by the contrast of light and color in different parts. In the Prince's chamber, a room about forty-five feet square, and as many feet in height, I was delighted with the beauty and richness of my art. Nothing could be more sumptuous than this Hall to the House of Peers. Stained glass, gilding and color, and pictorial wall pannels, are here to be seen in greatest harmony. And strange to say, in this most perfect room there is a jar and a discord that is most atrocious. How I felt the obstacles in the way of Architecture as the great Architect told me that he was unable to prevent this white group of Statuary from being placed here by a committee. They, doubtless, felt no want of harmony — they would not if half a dozen styles were mingled in the same room!

"I could not help thinking of the annoyance this violation caused the Architect of the British Capitol, when the Architect of the extensions of the American Capitol would, without compulsion, depart from the spirit and detail of the style of the original building, and thus perpetuate discord by his own will.* In the House of Peers I beheld

* "It is to the spirit and mode of treatment in these extensions we would call attention. The old building is of sandstone, painted white; the wings are of finest marble: the workmanship is the very best. The massive walls, the intricate brick vaulting, or the perfectly fire-proof floors, made by the wrought iron beams — all excite our admiration, for there is an expression of purpose about them: they defy time and the elements. In the old building, we have said, a beauty of harmony prevails throughout the exterior; from the general outlines down to the remotest detail, Roman architecture is there seen, with

the utmost wealth that could be made to serve the purpose. This hall is magnificent and harmonious as a whole, and gorgeously rich in detail with historic pictures by the best of British artists, to add dignity and meaning to the place."

During his entire residence in London, Mr. Tefft enjoyed the repeated courtesies of Sir Charles, as well as the hospitalities of his home.*

The question of a universal currency, which had engaged much of Mr. Tefft's thought and study in America, received a fresh impulse on his arrival in England. Without for a moment losing sight of the main purpose of his visit to Europe, his active and facile mind could not resist the temptation to perfect and lay before the British public a plan which appeared to him to obviate the objections to so important a monetary change that many intelligent and influential bankers and statists of the Old and New World had raised. The time seemed propitious. The subject had been learnedly treated by George Combe, in the

a classic beauty of detail rarely excelled. Corresponding to the fine windows of the old building with their pure details of moldings, consols, caps, and enrichment, we see windows in the extension with architraves of Romanesque and Grecian moldings, mixed enrichment in the same consol, and a pediment cap, in pure Grecian design. On one side of a corner may be seen unmercifully crowded windows with pilasters, and on the other side windows with architraves. The pilasters of the vestibule, and the entrance door way, show a mingling of the Grecian and Romanesque styles, wholly inexcusable. How far this spirit of conglomeration is to prevail in the finishing of the interior remains to be seen."—*Critique in the Crayon, by Mr. Tefft*, 1856.

* Sir Charles Barry was born in London, May 23, 1795, and died suddenly of heart disease at his residence, Elm House, Clapham Common, on Saturday, May 12, 1860, in the 65th year of his age. He was buried on the north side of Westminster Abbey, nearly opposite the fifth column from the west, and in close neighborhood of the resting place of Robert Stephenson. A writer in the *London Builder* says: "He was endeared to all who knew him well, and to many who had scarcely the advantage of his friendship, by the goodness of his nature, and the modesty of his pretensions that did hardly justice to his remarkable gifts, and to the merit for benefits present and which are to come, of his professional career." A Life of Sir Charles, by his son, Rev. Alfred Barry, D. D., Principal of Chiltenham College, was published in London, in 1867.

Edinburgh Scotsman, and reprinted in pamphlet form in London; by James Yates, Esq., M. A., F. R. S., Vice-President of the "International Association for obtaining a uniform decimal system of measures, weights and coins;" by T. C. Mossom Meekins, Esq., of the Inner Temple, Barrister at Law, and Honorary Secretary of the same Association; by William Arthur Jones, Esq.; by J. A. Franklin, Esq.; by Robert Slater, Esq., of the Royal Commission; by Professor Henry Hennessy, of the Catholic University of Ireland; and by others, for whose names we have not space. Professor J. H. Alexander, from the United States, was also in London, securing the attention of Parliament and of the scientific public to his views on "International Coinage for Great Britain and the United States." These and other influences opened the way for Mr. Tefft, and gained for him a more ready hearing.

To enlist the widest interest in his plan three methods presented themselves to Mr. Tefft, viz.: personal conversation, correspondence, and printing. To begin with the first method was chosen. He held interviews with all gentlemen of position and influence to whom he could obtain access, and explained in detail his system. He listened attentively to their own views of the subject, made mental notes of objections raised, and profited by friendly criticisms. To reach others not immediately accessible, and to hasten his work, he opened a correspondence which proved very satisfactory. From one of the Royal Commissioners on decimal coinage, with whom he had held a personal interview, he received the following note:

"DEAR SIR:—Since I had the pleasure of receiving you I perceive that Lord Elington has, in the House of Commons, given notice of his intention of moving for Professor Alexander's Report on the subject of his mission to England. This will eventually draw much public attention to the subject. Under these circumstances I feel still more strongly the advantages which would arise from the publication of your interesting essay.

"The Royal Commission on Decimal Coinage, under which I and my colleague are acting, does not include the question of international

coinage. It is therefore through the press that (at least *for the present*) the important proposition which you have opened can best be discussed."

The aim of Professor Alexander was, to use his own words, to obtain "an identity of coinage between the empire of Great Britain and the republic of the United States—two great nations of common origin, of similar business habits, of the same hereditary literature, and whose commerce, extensive and valuable as between themselves alone, with others covers, as does their common tongue, more than half the earth."

We have not time to explain the processes by which this result was to be reached. Professor Alexander was not insensible to the difficulties lying in the way of the acceptance of his plan, but he felt confident that "with prudent management" the existing systems of the two nations might be made to blend into one, and thus the two great branches of the Saxon family would realize what history shows to have been the uniform destiny of their forefathers,—the carrying with them and impressing where they tread the characteristics of their institutions. His creed, so to speak, was one money first for the two nations, "and then for all the world." He discusses his proposition with marked ability, but on comparing it with Mr. Tefft's plan, it seems to us not so comprehensive or likely to be so immediate in its full results. The latter proposed, as will be seen in subsequent pages, to harmonize the currency of the United States, Great Britain and France on principles that would at once render it easy for the German, Spanish, Russian and Italian countries to adopt—thus giving a uniform currency to two hundred and thirty millions of people.

While Mr. Tefft busied himself with making verbal explanations of his plan, and with inviting attention to it by correspondence, he improved the *third* method—the press. By the generosity of a friend,* who had become warmly interested in the unitary question, a pamphlet comprising a full statement of Mr. Tefft's theory was printed in London, and widely distributed among

* Thomas N. Dale, Esq.

the principal scientists and financiers of England and of the United States. The London *Times*, the London *Engineer*, the *Journal of the Society of Arts* and other publications spread the most important points before their readers, and thus many minds open to conviction were reached who could not in any other way have been so well approached. In Paris, M. Richy, then a stranger to Mr. Tefft, and afterwards a personal friend, translated the pamphlet into the French language, with "Remarques et Observations," and caused it to be published at Brussels. It was extensively circulated on the continent. In Belgium the leading journals printed it entire; and thus was secured for the cause a hearing far exceeding the most sanguine hopes of the author. These pamphlets in both languages drew from eminent gentlemen on both sides of the Channel expressions of unqualified satisfaction. A few letters are here inserted from persons whose names are familiar on this side of the Atlantic, showing the class of minds by which Mr. Tefft everywhere found himself sustained:

FROM THOMAS N. DALE, ESQ.

PARIS, June 1st, 1858.

T. A. TEFFT, ESQ.

My Dear Sir:—Since reading your manuscript on "Universal Currency," I have thought much on the subject, and believe you have solved the problem whereby the great inconvenience to international trade, arising from the many units and standards of money, can be removed.

Before the introduction of steam and the telegraph, those "annihilators of distance," the necessity for a common currency did not exist, but now all nations are almost immediate neighbors, and it is not possible to continue without great disadvantage, the measuring of our increasing commerce by the old systems of currencies, established mainly for local purposes.

England, it seems, is about to adopt a new decimal currency, and it is to be hoped she will in continuing her enlightened policy, take some of the existing units as the basis for her new system.

It appears to me, the dollar is decidedly the most suitable unit for a metallic currency, and introduced as you propose, it will be to the

interest of all the principal commercial nations to accept it, and make it universal.

I am pleased to learn that you are now in London, and contemplate submitting your "Universal Currency" to some of the principal English bankers, and to gentlemen most interested in "currency reform." I hope they will receive your plan with favor, and give it the serious attention it deserves.

Wishing you every possible success in your laudable endeavors, I am

Very respectfully yours,

THOMAS N. DALE.

FROM HON. HAMILTON FISH.

LEAMINGTON, July 3, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—Having passed two days most charmingly at Oxford I arrived here last evening, where I shall remain until Tuesday or possibly Wednesday, and then shall, as soon as practicable, place myself upon the route which you were so kind as to mark out, and proceeding to York (probably stopping for a day at Birmingham), shall go by your route to Edinboro', &c.

I enclose letters to Mr. Hunter and Governor Seward, asking them to consider your pamphlet. I leave the letters to be enveloped by you. Mr. Hunter's had better be directed to him at Washington, as I do not recollect his Post Office; it will be forwarded to him. Governor Seward's may be directed to *Auburn*, New York.

I think it may be well to send copies of your pamphlet to General Cass, and to Howell Cobb, Secretary of the Treasury, also to Hon. J. Glancy Jones, Chairman of the House Committee of Ways and Means. I do not know his Post Office, but if addressed to him at Washington it will doubtless reach him. So also with all other Senators and Members. Also to Lord Napier, and to Hon. William Pitt Fessenden, United States Senator from Maine. His residence is Portland. I consider him, if not the ablest man in the Senate at this time, certainly not second to any one in that body, and if you think fit to write on the copy sent him, that it is sent upon my suggestion, I think it will be sure to receive his attentive perusal. John J. Crittenden and John Bell, also of the Senate, will, I think, read and consider it; also James A. Pearce, of Maryland, and J. P. Benjamin, of Louisiana.

Pardon me for suggesting that the franking privilege of members of the Senate and of the House does *not* extend to the *Trans-atlantic* conveyance. If you send a parcel containing the pamphlets, &c., for any or all of the gentlemen above named to some friend in the United States who will mail them, their frank will cover the conveyance within the United States.

The weather has been very cold for the past two days. An overcoat has been quite essential while riding, and by no means uncomfortable while walking.

Hoping for the pleasure to meet you again before long,

I am, Dear Sir,

Very faithfully yours,

HAMILTON FISH.

T. A. TEFFT, ESQ., London.

FROM GEORGE PEABODY & CO.

22 Old Broad Street,
LONDON, 24th July, 1858.

DEAR SIR:—We have had much pleasure in perusing your pamphlet for an "Universal Currency on the Decimal System."

"*The whole Commercial World is agreed that the attainment of such an object would be a great boon,*" *and it is simply a question how it can best be accomplished.*

We have not time to study minutely the detail of your plan, but it certainly appears to us to possess much merit.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE PEABODY & CO.

FROM J. Y. MASON, U. S. MINISTER TO FRANCE.

PARIS, August 30th, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have read your pamphlet on Universal Currency, developing a plan for attaining a money circulation, common to all nations, based on the Decimal system.

Differing types of money, in the several States of the civilized world, are injurious to commerce and often most annoying to travellers. In my opinion, the adoption of an uniform system of money

will prove a direct benefaction to mankind, scarcely inferior to any of the wonderful inventions and improvements introduced within the last half century. Its indirect beneficial results will be the recognition and adoption of an uniform system of Weights and Measures. Who can exaggerate the great blessing which would be conferred by the two? Entering into the minute details of life, as well as the large operations of business, long use of certain types of currency establishes habits very difficult to be dealt with.

Your plan of giving harmony to the units of the pound sterling, the franc, and the dollar, by a very slight change of the quantity of precious metal used in coinage, appears to be wise and practical. It does not rudely interfere with habits long established, and will give a coin whose value will be understood by all whether they use money of one or the other denomination. The same piece of coin will represent, on its face, and may be used as of its true value, as Sterling in England, Francs in France, and Dollars in the United States. The system may with equal facility, if not with greater advantage, be extended to Germany, Italy, and the countries of Northern Europe, to Asia, and the whole world. The very small changes necessary to effect uniformity, resulting from your calculations based on documents of undoubted authority have surprised me, and appear to me to make the accomplishment of the end so much desired feasible, and I hope, certain.

You will be, in my opinion, entitled to very high praise, if your efforts shall be crowned with success. You may rely on my best wishes for the attainment of your great object, which will be not more honorable to you than useful to the world.

Very respectfully,

Your ob't serv't and friend,

J. Y. MASON.

T. A. Tefft, Esq.

FROM REV. THEODORE PARKER.

Montreux, Vaud, Suisse, 16 Sept., '59.

Dear Mr. Tefft:—I thank you for your pamphlet you so kindly sent me the other day. I have read it with care and interest: it gives me much instruction. I am no judge of the value of the scheme you propose perhaps, but yet *it seems to me quite practical.* Certainly its

adoption would save us a world of difficulty, while *national individuality* need not be disturbed in the least. I wonder if there is not some *moral* advantage in having a small unit of money? I have sometimes thought that the *franc* promoted economy more than the dollar.

> "Guard well the *cents*, the careless elves,
> Dollars will always keep themselves,"

used to be a proverb in my boyhood. Five francs seems more than one dollar, though it is less. I hope you are pleased with the interest I find your pamphlet has excited in England—the place where the initiative of such a movement might well be taken. But the English are slow to mend any practical mischief—witness that wretched vice of flogging in their army and navy! I am always glad to hear of *desertion* from either, and wonder the government does not see that cattle will not often break out of a good pasture to get into a poor one. The Americans, I suppose, will rest content with their money—the best in the world for convenience; but I wish they would rid themselves of the greater part of that miserable *paper* they now stuff their pockets with. I have not seen a bank bill for four months, and wish I never might of less size than $25.

Yours truly,

THEODORE PARKER.

FROM COUNT CAVOUR.

[Translation.]

TURIN, [month omitted.] 5, 1859.

MY DEAR SIR:—I received only yesterday the letter which you wrote me the 3d of this month from Milan. I have read with interest your pamphlet on Universal Currency. I consider your project as useful and easily applicable in the countries where the French system prevails. The equalization of currency is a measure of which the necessity will soon become evident. But I doubt if England and the United States will consent to modify the real value of the pound sterling and of the dollar. I wish you may succeed in convincing your fellow countrymen and the English of the expediency of such a measure.

Receive, sir, my earnest compliments,

C. CAVOUR.

Intensity of study, alike of Architecture, Art and a universal currency, was sufficiently relieved by frequent invitations to private parties, by helping to do up the customary amount of patriotism on the Fourth of July; and by making one of a dinner party given by the great London Banker, Mr. George Peabody, at Crystal Palace. On this latter occasion he was not a little surprised, not to say dismayed, by being called upon without previous intimation to respond to a sentiment in behalf of the ladies,—a task which, however pleasant, it was not so easy for a young man to perform impromptu in a manner satisfactory to himself. In a playful account of the affair he says: "All I remember was pleading embarrassment—saying something about the silent eloquence of ladies, and after a disagreeable pause, offering as a sentiment:

"That country where every lady is a Queen."

I was exasperated with mine host for placing me in such a fix, (for I should not have been appalled in the least with fair notice,) and made him promise to allow me to redeem myself on some other occasion."

But perhaps the most satisfactory of the many social occasions in which he participated was a select party arranged expressly for him at the hospitable mansion of James Yates, Esq., at which he was met by Mr. Rowland Hill, Mr. T. Graham, Master of the Mint, Mr. J. B. Smith, M. P., Professors Levi, Hennessy, Walley and other gentlemen of high distinction, in order to discuss his currency plan—making an assemblage of some of the profoundest thinkers on the subject in England, Scotland and Ireland, and all anxious to understand the method by which the young American proposed to apply his theory and accomplish a universal result. That evening was ever a golden one in his memory.

In the summer of 1858, Mr. Tefft proceeded to Paris to study the architecture of that city of magnificent structures, and incidentally to promote his currency scheme. Here he was cordially received by the American Minister, Mr. Mason, by M. Vattemare, Richy, his translator, Count Rottermund, Professor

Marchase, Gromort, Krafft, Delille, and by his countrymen generally, among them Professor Morse, Charles Sumner, George Bemis, Reverend Charles Mason, and Thomas N. Dale, He was at once made the recipient of unexpected and gratifying attentions. M. Richy hastened to make a resumé of his currency plan, which was published in a Paris paper. A copy of his pamphlet was sent with a note to the Emperor Napoleon, and courteously acknowledged by his Secretary. Copies were also transmitted to Baron James Rothschild, Consul General of Austria, Count Cavour, of Sardinia, Count Bismark, Baron Von Humboldt, of Prussia, and to other distinguished persons who had taken a deep interest in the subject. The effect of these efforts was favorable to his reputation, and awakened broader sympathy for his plan. Writing to a friend he says: "My pamphlet on Universal Currency has made a good deal of interest. I have the credit of having made a great invention. The letters I have received on the subject would surprise you."

Among the pleasant incidents that diversified Mr. Tefft's experience in Paris was a dinner given to Professor Morse by the Americans in Paris, Aug. 17th, 1858, in honor of his invention of the Telegraph, and on the occasion of its completion under the Atlantic Ocean. The idea was started by Mr. Tefft, and the banquet in all its appointments was worthy of the occasion and of the distinguished guest. Hon. John Preston presided, supported by Hon. Hamilton Fish as Vice President. On the removal of the cloth, addresses were made by the Chair, Professor Morse, His Excellency J. Y. Mason, Hon. Hamilton Fish, His Excellency Joseph R. Chandler, United States Minister to the Court of Naples, Messrs. Tefft, Seely, Munroe, Atwill, Spencer, (United States Consul,) Dale, Squier, Thayer and Murray. A letter from Mr. Charles Sumner to Professor Morse was read, expressing a regret that the state of his health prevented his joining in the well deserved honor which his countrymen were about to offer him. A sentence or two from that letter may with propriety be here reproduced: "As I would not be thought indifferent to the occasion, I seize the moment to

express in this informal manner my humble gratitude for the great discovery with which your name will be forever associated. Through you civilization has made one of her surest and grandest triumphs, beyond any one ever won on any field of blood; nor do I go beyond the line of most cautious truth, when I add, that if mankind had yet arrived at any just appreciation of its benefactors, it would welcome such a conqueror with more than a Marshal's bâton."

Mr. Tefft, in responding to the toast: "The child of the Sea; to whom does it belong?" brought out a fact that may not be generally remembered, that the conception of the practicability of the telegraph was worked out by Professor Morse during a voyage made by him across the Atlantic in 1832. So absorbed was his mind in this grand thought, and so filled with enthusiasm was he, that when he landed on the wharf and proceeded to his residence, his brother, who met and accompanied him, says, "he talked of nothing but the wonderful results to be achieved by his invention; not even once inquiring about the welfare of his family!" As early as 1837, Professor Morse conceived the idea of sending messages by telegraphic wire laid beneath a wide expanse of water, and six years later, in an official letter to Hon. John C. Spencer, then Secretary of the Treasury of the United States, alluding to the law of propulsion of the electric current, he writes: "The practical inference from this law is, that a telegraphic communication on the electro-magnetic plan may with certainty be established across the Atlantic Ocean. Startling as this may now seem, I am confident the time will come when this project will be realized." A proposed voyage to the Moon would probably appear scarcely less chimerical now than did the proposition to unite our own country with Europe by a magnetic cable of three thousand miles' length, laid upon the bottom of the ocean, to the staid public of twenty-five years gone by. Yet the author of the conception — the electric prophet of the day — lived to witness its perfect triumph. As he ran over in his mind the difficulties that beset him at every step of his progress, and remembered how one by one they had been removed,

we can better imagine than describe the emotion with which, standing before his appreciative countrymen in a foreign city, he exclaimed, "My dream of twenty years is realized.—The last act has been consummated on the day of my recent arrival in Europe!" Appropriately was it said on the same occasion, "Space has been conquered, and voices swifter than the chariot wheels of Phœbus are sent beneath the Sea, and round the Earth."

While in London, Mr. Tefft made the acquaintance of Count Arrivabene, a confidential friend of Garibaldi, which was continued by correspondence after the Count returned to the continent. Mr. Tefft sympathised with the Italian cause, and proposed to aid it in the United States by agitating the public mind. This he thought he could easily do, being in communication with several papers on this side of the Atlantic, as a regular or occasional contributor. He opened his mind to the Count on the subject, who gratefully accepted the proposition in behalf of his Chief. Under the date of October 28, 1859, he wrote:

"My Dear Tefft:—Your kind letters have found me here, after having been stopped in the Post Office of Bologna for more than a fortnight. I am now coming from the room of General Garibaldi. I have shown him your letter, and he is very grateful to you for your kind thought. He wishes me to thank you, and if you will write to him here, or come and see him he will receive you like a friend. Of course he has accepted at once your proposal, and if you want it he will give or send you an authority of agitating America. Italian affairs look rather unfavorable just now, for I have no hope in diplomacy. You may however depend upon it that we shall fight it out even if the European powers be fools enough to press upon us the Dukes and the Pope. In two days I shall be at Florence, where I hope to hear from you.

"My native town, Mantua, having still remained under Austria, a new emigration begins for me. A hard life, dear Tefft, awaits me, for I am going to be separated from dear old parents, God knows for how long. I am therefore sad and cast down, but the courage will come to me again I hope. I am in great need of it just now. Write

to me. Your kind heart gave me the hope of having found a friend in you.

Believe me yours faithfully,

C. ARRIVABENE."

The few weeks Mr. Tefft survived after the reception of this letter were too short to do much if any thing in behalf of the cause he proposed to advocate, and probably nothing was attempted.

It will be recollected that some sixteen or more years ago, M. Alexander Vattemare, a citizen of Paris, while in this country, secured by a system of international exchanges a large quantity of American books to aid in forming a public International Library in the metropolis of France. With the increasing number of American residents and of transient visitors in Paris, occasions for consulting this collection on points of literary, scientific, commercial and legal interests became more frequent and important. But the books were deposited in inconvenient and out of the way places. Ten thousand volumes had been placed in an attic of the *Hotel de Ville*, and five thousand remained in the rooms of M. Vattemare. This disposition of the books of course very much impaired their usefulness to those who needed oftenest to use them. But it was the best arrangement the indefatigable collector could for the time make. Mr. Tefft sympathised with him in his perplexity. The Emperor Napoleon was just then having a portion of the new Louvre fitted up for his library, and Mr. Tefft conceived the idea of securing an apartment in that building for the American International Library, as at once a safe, central and popular repository for so valuable a treasure. The idea met the approval of M. Vattemare. But it needed the co-operation of influential men to bring about so desirable an end. For assistance in this matter, Mr. Tefft appealed to Ex-Governor Hamilton Fish, who promptly responded :—" Your letter about the American books collected here was received, and I have had a conversation with Vattemare on the subject. I should be very glad to do something,

but really do not know the path by which those in power or in influence are to be reached. I will again talk with Vattemare, and if any thing can be done, shall be most happy to bear my humble part in doing it." Whether any thing was accomplished at this time, or whether those wishing to consult the library still climb to the attic of the Hotel de Ville, we are not informed.

Late in 1858, Mr. Tefft visited Rome, where he passed six months with unmingled delight. Rome was then crowded with strangers, largely represented by Americans. His friends Greenough and Paul Akers were there to extend the hand of welcome. Hawthorne, Browning, Charlotte Cushman, Harriet Hosmer, and other like spirits were also there, imparting to society an uncommon charm. "The beautiful Pincio, with its drives and walks, its pines and exotics, and its splendid view of the many cupolas of Modern Rome;" St. Peter's, with its life-long art studies and its multitude of Cardinals and Priests; the Vatican, with its library rich in rare books and rarer Manuscripts, its Museum and other attractions; the Colisseum, bearing in its dilapidated condition tokens of its massive grandeur eighteen centuries ago; the Pantheon, older than the advent of Christianity; Trajan's Pillar, a monument of Apollodorus's taste and skill; the rostral column to Duellius, the naval victor over Hannibal; in a word, all Rome, affluent in imposing architecture, and in works of Art, became to him a great "SCHOOL OF DESIGN," into which he entered with all the ardor of his nature.

While thus engaged, Sculpture occupied somewhat his attention. He conceived and executed in plaster a Medallion Head, designed to illustrate a "Type of American Beauty." It was exquisitely molded, and won general admiration. Many of his friends, among them Greenough, wished him to reproduce the work in marble, and to make Sculpture, for which he had shown such aptitude, the specialty of his future. The first, time and circumstances did not permit him to do, and the second was not his preference. He believed that Sculpture should be more identified with Architecture in the way of ornamentation than it

had hitherto been, and it was his intention on his return to America to employ it in this manner. In reply to an intimation from a friend at home, that by his interest in this Art he might be drawn away from the profession with which he had entered life, he says: "Your hint about the Medallion was very good, but not needed. Have no fears that I shall abandon my first love. But I *do mean* to know *enough* of Sculpture to make it serve its place in my future architecture. In fact, *Architecture* is a miserable *skeleton* without enrichment of *sculptural form* and *color*." No copy of this interesting specimen of Idealism was ever made, and the original is now held by a lady to whom it was presented by Mr. Tefft, as an invaluable family treasure.

On the second day of June, 1859, Mr. Tefft left Rome and returned to France. He a second time visited Switzerland, and in Geneva gave himself up to sight seeing: examining the principal structures of mediæval and modern times; acquainting himself with the improvements and business activities set on foot in that city by President Fazy; visiting the famous watch establishment of Pateck & Philipe, from which one hundred thousand watches were sent out annually to "help keep the world in time;"* acquiring a knowledge of the Art of enamel painting as practiced by the matchless Lamonierre; gathering particulars of the operations of the Vevay Society of Fish Culture, and of other piscatory enterprises; looking after the vintage of Switzerland; suggesting improvements in the Hôtel Métropole to its enterprising proprietor;† writing letters to the *New York Times;*

* "Mr. Pateck has travelled extensively in the United States. With true magnanimity he paid his American competitors of Waltham a high compliment, and said that our systematizing and inventing would soon overcome the difference in the price of labor, and the American watchmaking would prove a success in every respect. He also made another remark gratifying to our national pride.—He said in all his extensive dealings with Americans he had never lost a dollar."—*Letter to New York Times.*

† "The Hôtel Métropole," writes Mr. Tefft, "marks an era in European hotel building. The enterprising Geneva merchants who had seen our palaces of the people, determined on having a hotel in Geneva after the same models, and the result is quite inspiring to the traveller. To render this com-

listening of a Sunday evening to sacred wisdom as it fell from the lips of the eminent Merle D'Aubigne; and luxuriating in the beautiful scenery of the romantic lake Leman. Of course he had no idle hours. His *play* was *work*. Writing from this ancient fastness of the Reformation, he says:

"The most of the time I have been in Geneva the weather has been fine, and the scenery beautiful. Indeed, Geneva by nature is an enchanting place. From my window I look out on the blue lake Leman, whose surface is always dotted with the beautiful lateen sails, and whose distance is lost in the grey. In the foreground, poplars are grouped here and there by the shores, and on the opposite side the mighty wall of the Jura, grey during the day time and dark blue at sundown, stretches away with its graceful lines until that too, is lost in the north. And very great are the changes that occur from time to time in this view. Sometimes the heavy clouds alight on the mountains and have a few rounds with each other with their heavy artillery. Then, the view is rather gloomy. But when the north wind sweeps down through this gateway of the tourists and the Rhone, then the water flies over the jetty in such dashing white spray, that I love to watch it because, though a feeble imitation, it reminds me of the glorious ocean. Then again, on a soft dewy morning, I have seen the graceful swans rise from the still water, and fly away out of sight. Indeed, of the beauty of this lake there is no limit. I have frequently been rowing when the pebbles at the depth of twenty feet were as distinct as possible; and in my walks by the shore I can watch the fish at a distance of two hundred feet. But the finest scene of all is the sunset on Mont Blanc. A "row" on the water, or a walk on the opposite side of the harbor, brings to view the flushing rosy tints of the setting sun on this snowy monarch of the Alps. To watch the increasing of the tints, then the deepening of the shadows, until the last flash of a sudden vanishes, and the great white spectre looms suddenly up against the greyish purple background, is to witness a scene

fortable house still more popular with our countrymen, Mr. Walbold, the keeper, has cheerfully promised to carry out some suggestions I have given him, so that next summer the visitors of the Métropole will find a large and beautiful parlor for ladies on the first floor, a gentleman's smoking room, and a conspicuous hotel register, where all guests will inscribe their names on entering."

of the very grandest description, beyond the power of man to paint or describe, and when once seen in its *unequalled glory*, can never be forgotten."

In the same letter he writes:

"My life in Europe has been brimful of the pleasures which live in the heart and are blessed of heaven. I have sometimes felt conscientious about enjoying so much of the world; but then I think it is the playtime which succeeded a brief period of work, and precedes, perhaps, a dozen or twenty years of *anxiety* and *struggle*. For I well know that my future is to be one of labor. I mean that our country shall enjoy facilities in art education which no other country possesses, and before this can be accomplished much must be done. But for what else are we made if not to do good in the world, and make it better for our having lived in it?"

But while greatly enjoying the scenery around Geneva, and its Art and Architectural treasures, and finding much to admire in its business activity, he was not so well pleased with the social life and religious aspects of the city. In the former caste ruled, tending to depress the masses. In the latter, a departure from the staid habits upon which the best condition of society rests was painfully clear. "Should the stern sharp-faced John Calvin return to the city of his iron rule," he writes, "I imagine he would find but little to his liking. I am quite sure that the Sunday night theatre, and circus, and faro bank, would meet with his marked disapproval. The miserable attendance in the national churches, while the catholic priest often has an audience of two thousand persons, would also lead him to institute some inquiry as to the *cause* of this failure of his successors. Three institutions of his time he would find to be still observed. The men and women continue to keep separate as much as possible in all social, or anti-social gatherings; the sneezing and coughing interval in the sermon is still observed; and the regular followers of the good old fashions can be seen any day riding about town sideways."

While sojourning on the continent, Mr. Tefft visited Florence, Baden-Baden, Turin, Milan, Berlin, Genoa, and other cities of

note, feasting his eyes upon magnificent churches and palaces, and drinking in inspiration from the works of the old masters preserved in the galleries of Art. In the issue of the Italian war then raging, and in which Sardinia played so conspicuous a part, he was particularly interested. His sympathies, as already stated, were on the side of the oppressed, and every movement promising freedom for Italy called forth strong expressions of satisfaction. On the 6th day of June, 1859, while in Turin, news of a great battle fought and a victory for the liberals was received. In the evening Mr. Tefft was at the *Café National*, the resort of the choice spirits of that city, and of exiles residing in Turin, when the bearer of a bulletin rushed in and announced the event. "First," says Mr. T., describing the scene, "came the declaration of Milan, making perfect bewilderment of joy in the commencement. "Viva il Re! Viva lo statuto! Viva l'Italia!" The conclusion of that unlooked for declaration was the richest Italian language I ever heard. Then came the confirmation of the great battle, the main facts, and the flight of the enemy towards the Adda. Vivas after vivas followed the reading, and then such embracing and wildness of delight seemed impossible with full grown men. My friend, an exiled nobleman, whose acquaintance I made in London, who had not seen his family for ten years, grasped me in the true Italian style, and I am inclined to think there was some cheering in the Anglo-Saxon style.

"From the Café the crowd went into the streets with flags. The news soon brought the people to the windows, and then occurred an illumination improvised on the moment. The people shouted with joy, and the ladies appeared at the windows. As the crowd swept along through the piazza Madaina, above the sound of rejoicing, one name seemed to be borne aloft, which showed that the happy people of Turin well knew to whom they were indebted for their rising fortunes. Above that sublime monotone I could distinctly hear the word *Cavour! Cavour!*" After this burst of patriotism, we are prepared to learn that he visited the battle field of Magenta, and gathered mementos of its bloody scenes.

Mr. Tefft extended his travels into Lombardy for whose brick architecture he conceived a great liking as being practically adapted to our own country. In Berlin an interview with Humboldt was arranged for him through Mr. Wright, the American Minister, but owing to the feeble health of that eminent philosopher it was not consummated. From France Mr. Tefft proceeded to Russia, enriching his port-folio with the quaint and stately architecture of Moscow and St. Petersburg and employing his opportunities to enlist an interest in his universal currency. Returning to England he accepted an invitation to read his paper on that subject before the INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCE. To a young man such an invitation was no ordinary compliment, and was all the more gratifying as it gave evidence of the favorable impression made by him on his previous visit. The meeting was held in Liverpool, Lord Brougham presiding. The important character of the meeting may be inferred from the subjects brought before it at that time. Besides the paper of Mr. Tefft, papers were read on the following topics:

W. Brown, M. P.—On the Disadvantages of the Ordinary System of Money in Education.

S. Browne.—An Account of the Plan, Object and Progress of the International Association.

Rev. Alfred Barrett—The Advantages of the Metrical System in its Educational Aspects.

James Yates, F. R. S.—The Requisites for a good System of Decimal Coinage.

Theodore Rathbone—On International Measures.

Rev. C. H. Bromby—Proposed Plan of Decimal Coinage.

Mr. Tefft's paper commanded marked attention and was printed entire in the London *Daily News*. It was a complete triumph and placed him from that time forth in the front rank of monetary reconstructionists. "Your success pleases me," writes a member of the American Legation in London. "I congratulate you upon having single-handed made so strong an

impression, and trust you may yet accomplish your laudable purpose in this currency matter." Writes the American Minister at Berlin: "Your views have been read with interest, and most fully approved." The details of the author's plan will be made sufficiently clear by the following extracts from his pamphlet printed in London, and from extracts from his paper above referred to, which were subsequently printed in pamphlet form in Paris:

"A plan for attaining this universal currency, to be successful, must have regard to the prejudices and types of coins of the principal nations. The English, or American, or French method alone does not meet the case. The plan I propose, which to me appears to be the most perfect and practicable, employs the oldest, the most widely known and the most economical unit, with the French metrical system as the basis. It being thus connected with the decimal system of weight, it would inevitably lead to uniformity in weight and measures.

"I propose the metrical dollar as a standard monetary unit; its value to be 1-6 grammes of gold, 9-10ths fine, the value of the present standard of 5 francs, 9-10ths fine, (being 1.6129 grammes). Such a unit, thus established on an enduring basis, will allow the principal types of coins of the leading nations to remain undisturbed, and offer at the same time similar inducements for all nations to join in its adoption. My plan has reference to France, England and America, because it is much more feasible to obtain the desired legislation at first from a limited number of States than from all; and any plan of currency adopted by the three nations foremost in arts, in manufactures and in commerce, would, without doubt, become the currency of the world. The reasons for selecting the dollar as the unit of this general system are as follows: It is the oldest of existing money units, being coined at Joachimsthaler (hence the name), in 1519. The present franc was introduced in 1799 and the present pound in 1816. The dollar is also best known of all western units in the East; in some parts of India and China it being the only well-known unit. At the same time this unit has been very permanent in its value, and it is the intermediate unit between the franc and the pound. It exists in a large and increasing currency, Canada having recently adopted

it. It exists in name, or as a money type, in all America, in the German, Spanish, Russian and Italian countries, thus circulating among 230,000,000 of people, and in the standard I have proposed it renders the re-coinage necessary on about the same conditions in each country. The dollar is the most economical unit, because it starts with the commonest small coin in use for its cent or hundredth part. The kopeck in Russia, the bajoccho in Italy, the kreutzer in Austria, the sou or piece of five centimes in France, the cent in America, and the halfpenny in England, are the smallest coins of most frequent circulation. A unit with cents smaller than the ordinary coins makes unnecessary figures, and a unit so large that the cent is above the common coin, incurs the use of the mill or a third decimal, and thus becomes a heavy, unwieldly system. The unit of the franc is so small that the "centime" is rarely met with, and yet all French money accounts are uselessly swelled out from this reason.

"I propose, then, the gold dollar, the same as the present five-franc piece in form, connected with the metrical system, and of the following standard, as the universal monetary unit. Its value to be exactly the same as five francs of the French or four shillings of the English currency, under the new system."

Here follows a table of "the pieces of coinage, their equivalents and weights," and a "comparison of the present standards and the one proposed," which is omitted, as not essential to the narrative.

"The cherished national types of coins, the Napoleon, the sovereign and the eagle — the half-dollar and the florin — the quarter, the shilling and the franc, the penny, the cent or sou, and the present centime, would thus remain undisturbed; although *they would all bear their numerical value in dollars and cents.* On one side of each coin would be the national medallion, name of country and date; on the other side, in the centre, would be the numerical value, the same as now stamped on the French coinage, viz.: 25 cents, 1 dollar, 5 dollars, etc.; *and on the border of this side should be added the decimal weight and fineness.* * (The equivalent of the new unit in francs or shillings might be added in smaller figures if deemed necessary.) By this means distinct nationality of coinage would be preserved as

* "In silver the English shilling would be 25 cents, and the florin would be 50 cents—the largest silver piece in the new currency. In France, the five-franc and two-franc pieces would be dispensed with, and the half-dollar employed in their stead. The franc would be retained, from its long-estab-

much as at present, while the common language on each coin would be recognized everywhere, and be a means of education wherever it should go. Indeed, this plan, while it would give internationality and the advantages of the most economical of decimal systems to those who desired them, would leave to others the liberty of retaining the present system, if they preferred it.

"In this re-stamping of money, the French coins now issued should be regarded as the models of taste and excellence; as a high artistic quality and the perfection of the most expensive machinery are the best safeguards from counterfeiting. According to this plan then, France could adopt a more economical unit without change of system, and England obtain a decimal currency founded on the decimal system of weight, employing, at the same time, their most familiar types of coins, a condition essential to any change of currency.

"It is this practical view of the subject which has led me to propose the smallest possible change from the present weight of coinage, in order to obtain harmony in the currencies. But let it be distinctly understood that the proposed depreciation of weight would be so slight that it would not be known in all the ordinary commercial transactions. The value of the franc, the dollar and the pound would remain the same in their respective countries in ordinary trading intercourse. The old gold and silver coin of America, or the silver of France, would only obtain premium rates when taken for exportation or in large specie trades, and then this premium would always be highest at the mint, and therefore the old money would, without expense to government, soon be replaced by the new. It would also be easy to change the present currencies, whether in money or account, into the new unit. Pounds multiplied by 5 would be dollars; shillings divided by 4 would be dollars and cents. Francs divided by 5

lished name and associations, as twenty cents, instead of dividing the half-dollars into quarters, as in England and America.

"In copper coin, the two-cent piece, the same as the two-centime piece now used in France, would be the penny in England, and the cent, or centime, as it would be called in France, would be equal to five centimes of the present French money, or nearly the half-penny in England. The half-cent would represent the farthing, and the quarter-cent, or 2½ mill piece, would be required to make the *exact* change for sixpence and threepence of present English money, (the new penny being four per cent. less than the old); while the one-fifth cent, or two mills, would be *precisely* the same as the present centime in France."—*Tefft's Universal Currency, 2d edition, p.* 10.

would be dollars and cents. To change the English into the French currency is much more difficult. In weight there would also be an advantage over the present French system. Gold is chiefly used for very good reasons in balancing exchanges. Very little silver is brought to the weight-test compared with gold, and yet 50 francs at present weight 16.129 grammes. I propose 10 dollars, or 50 francs should weigh 16 grammes, and, consequently, 25 dollars would=40 grammes, 50 dollars=80 grammes, etc. The kilogramme of standard gold would be 625 dollars; at present it is nearly 3,100 francs."

"For the feasibility of changing the standard in America, where the change would be greatest, I would refer to the change of $7\frac{3}{4}$ grains of fine gold per 5 dollars in 1834, while I propose less than 5 grains.

"In the adoption of such an international currency there would, of course, be obstacles to encounter, but these would soon disappear in the educational and commercial advantages that would follow.

"Should England, in view of this change, adopt the American rate of seigniorage of $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 per cent., and France increase hers to the same amount, then the actual difference between the old and the new gold coins would be in America, very nearly .044; in England, .012, and in France, .003 per cent.

"At the present time gold is the ruling metal in commercial exchanges, and 25 francs of gold (112,008 grains fine gold,) are equal to:

In the French standard,	1736,14 grains fine silver.
In the English standard,	1600,35 grains fine silver.

"Or .078 per cent. less of fine silver in England than in France for the same fine gold.

"Consequently France gives the market price to silver, and will continue to do so just so long as her silver coin can be had or she holds to her present ratio between the metals.

"Now the drain of silver is to the east, from whence it rarely returns, and eastern trade will increase rather than diminish.

"The total coinage of gold and silver for the last four years in France, England and America will give the proportional mint supply of the two metals.

GOLD COINAGE.

IN DOLLARS.

	FRANCE.	ENGLAND.	AMERICA.
1854.....	105,305,000	20,760,000	52,094,000
1855.....	89,485,000	45,045,000	52,795,000
1856.....	101,656,000	30,010,000	59,343,000
1857.....	114,512,000	24,300,000	50,366,000
Total.....	410,958,000	120,115,000	214,598,000

SILVER COINAGE.

IN DOLLARS.

	FRANCE.	ENGLAND.	AMERICA.
1854.....	424,000	705,000	8,619,000
1855.....	5,100,000	975,000	3,501,000
1856.....	10,884,000	2,315,000	5,196,000
1857.....	761,000	1,865,000	3,202,000
Total.....	17,169,000	5,860,000	20,518,000

Making for the three countries during the last four years,

Total gold coinage..... 745,671,000 dollars.
(Or in francs, 3,728,355,000.)

Total silver coinage..... 43,547,000 dollars.
(Or in francs, 217,735,000.)

Now the excess of Silver exportation from France during 1857 *is more than* 65,000,000 *of dollars, or* 325,000,000 *of francs.*

"The silver required for the Eastern trade will be obtained where it is cheapest. If France had had the same ratio between gold and silver as England, the silver exportation of the past year would have left in its place in gold *more than it has* by 5,000,000 of dollars, or 25,000,000 of francs.

"To remedy this disadvantage, France should change her legal ratio of the two metals.

"In the adoption of the universal currency, and thereby inaugurating it in other countries, France would obtain a more economical unit, would simplify the weight of her gold coinage and bring her silver to

the gold standard. She would at the same time be extending, almost immediately, the benefits of the decimal system of weight to the rest of the civilized world. *

"Let a commission be appointed by the British Parliament, one by the French Emperor, and one by the American Congress, to meet in Convention at Brussels, during the coming year, in order to determine upon some plan like the above; and the first practical step will have been taken. Such a Convention, if composed of judicious men, would undoubtedly determine upon a mode of introducing the universal currency that would meet with general approval, and by means of international treaty be adopted by different governments."

It will be seen that this synopsis closes with a proposition for a Congress of Commissioners representing France, England and America, to be held in Brussels, during the then coming year, under the sanction of the French Emperor, as the most certain method of securing to the commercial nations "the boon of a universal currency."

To such a conference the following letter from the Hon. Theodore S. Fay, then United States Minister to Switzerland, refers:

FROM THE HON. THEODORE S. FAY, U. S. MINISTER TO SWITZERLAND.

UNITED STATES LEGATION,
BERNE, October 1, 1858.

MY DEAR SIR:—I have the pleasure to acknowledge your favor of September 18th, and to express my interest in your efforts to establish an uniform coinage based on the decimal system of weight. Your

*"No one can better appreciate the absurdities of many currencies than by making a tour through the German States. The variations of currency within two hundred miles distance in Italy are bad enough; but in Germany it becomes absolutely amusing to a man of good temper to see how the change he took in paying for his breakfast is refused with perfect coolness where he eats his dinner. It is true the money-changer is always near at hand to help him out of his difficulty; but could we not with much good grace say adieu to pounds, doubles, simples, ducats, piastres, zecchine, crowns, zwanzigers, roubles, Francisconi, Testoni, lires, groschen, kreutzers, kopecks, leptos, custom-house figures, and money-changers?"—*Tefft's Universal Currency, 2d edition, p.* 32.

plan seems to me so practicable, and so clearly for the general convenience, that you must carry every one with you, I should think, except such as have interested reasons for opposition. I have expressed the same opinion in a circular letter, and sent it to Judge Mason.

In case of a Conference next year, I think Switzerland would do very well to assist, as she has already experienced the benefit of the same principle on a smaller scale in the international circulation of her money throughout France, Sardinia, &c. Like all good things, your proposition is simple, and its realization would be another step towards the removal of those barriers and difficulties which commenced in the land of Shinar, and at the Tower of Babel. The whole earth was then of one language and of one speech. "The people were one."—(Gen. ii. 6.) And it is the influence and end of Christians to make them one again.

Very sincerely, your friend,

THEO. S. FAY.

T. A. TEFFT, ESQ., Berlin.

We wish here to draw attention to the fact, that from the meeting of the Social Science Association, in Liverpool, and the movements it inaugurated, may be traced the spread of the ideas there unfolded until they arrested the attention of the leading Governments of the civilized world and issued in an International Conference held in Paris during the Universal Exposition in 1867. This Conference was convened upon invitation of the Emperor Napoleon, who had for many years cherished "the idea of the unification of the money systems" of all nations. France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland had already by convention entered into a mutual "monetary union," and the Emperor thought the time had "arrived for following out the project" to a universal result. The Conference opened June 17th, and continued until July 6th, during which time it held eight sittings. Nineteen nations were represented, viz.: Austria, Grand Duchy of Baden, Bavaria, Belgium, Denmark, United States of America, France, Great Britain, Greece, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Prussia, Russia, Sweden and Norway, Switz-

erland, Turkey and Wurtemburg. At the first meeting the Marquis de Moustier, Minister of Foreign Affairs, presided. At the subsequent sessions the chair was occupied by M. de Parieu, Vice-President of the Council of State, and by Prince Napoleon, (Jerome).

Had Mr. Tefft lived until the meeting of this Conference, it is hardly necessary to intimate who, in all probability, would have been selected to represent the United States. But one name could have been thought of or mentioned, and that the name of him who for more than eight years had ceased from labors into which the representatives of these nations entered.

The United States Government cordially accepted the Emperor's invitation and appointed for its representative Hon. Samuel B. Ruggles, of New York, then in Paris in the character of a scientific commissioner to the Universal Exposition. The selection was judicious. Mr. Ruggles had by his enlightened intelligence made a favorable impression upon the high officials of the French Cabinet, and possessing a full knowledge of the views of his own government was eminently qualified to bear a prominent part in the deliberations of the Conference.

Twelve propositions were presented for consideration, which were carefully examined and harmoniously discussed. The plan of monetary unification finally agreed upon was—

1.—A single standard, exclusively of gold.

2.—Coins of equal weight and diameter.

3.—Of equal quality, nine-tenths fine.

4.—The weight of the present five-franc gold piece to be the unit with its multiples. France to issue a new coin of the value and weight of twenty-five francs. This last proposition was made by Mr. Ruggles.

5.—The coins of each nation to continue to bear the names and emblems preferred by each, but to be legal tenders, public and private in all.

In addition to the foregoing, the Conference recommended that the French Government should invite the different nations to answer by the 15th February, 1868, whether they would

unite in placing their respective monetary systems on the basis here indicated, and also that the measures of unification which the nations may mutually adopt be completed as far as practicable by diplomatic conventions.*

In looking at the subject as developed by the Conference, two facts are apparent:

1. That the plan of unification proposed is, in nearly every particular, the plan conceived, matured and presented to the scientists of Europe by Mr. Tefft; and

2. That nowhere in the proceedings or in any reports based upon them does his name appear. We are reminded of the interest felt in this question by Jefferson, Hamilton, Gallatin and others. Attention is drawn to the Report of Mr. John Quincy Adams in 1821, and to the views of Mr. Gorham in 1830. We find reference to Prof. Alexander, whose mission to England in 1856, to secure a unity of coinage between the two countries, "failed from an indisposition of the English government to modify their pound, shilling and pence." We are told that Mr. Secretary Chace invited the attention of Congress in 1862 to the importance of uniform weights, measures and coins; and also that the Berlin International Congress agreed to certain recommendations in 1863. M. de Parieu, one of the Presidents of the Conference, very properly recognized the proceedings of the Trade Conference at Frankfort, in 1864, and of the quartette convention, already spoken of, which met in Paris in December, 1865. But no word is found for Mr. Tefft. The man who originated the "American idea" of a gold standard†, and

*Ruggles' Report, p. 86.

†"The single standard of gold is an American idea."—*Sherman's Report to the U. S. Senate*, p. 4.

In a speech made by Mr. Ruggles, at the Banquet given in New York, June 23, 1868, to the Chinese Embassy, that gentleman said:—"It is due alike to historic truth, and to public duty, to state and claim, now and here, that this great measure of international monetary unity is far more American than European in its origin." Giving due credit to foreign writers on this subject, this statement is nevertheless true. Why it is so, the preceding narrative conclusively shows.

who bridged over the difficulties that for centuries had stood in the way of a harmonized universal currency, came not once in view. It is not easy to account for the omission. It would seem but a simple dictate of courtesy that when an author's work, the product of many years' hard study, was to be taken bodily, or at least its essential ideas and principles appropriated even though no international copy-right forbade, an acknowledgment of obligation should be made. Certainly such a course was due to the memory of Mr. Tefft. It is possible that the Conference was not acquainted with the labors of the young Rhode Islander, and on this supposition alone can a satisfactory apology for so palpable an injustice be based. At all events, it must seem to the candid reader that a name and service known to the French Emperor, to Cavour, Dupin, and to the principal currency reformers of Europe, should have been known to the delegates of their respective governments; and if known, recognized.

We do not propose to pursue this theme further. The two plans, with the dates under which they appeared, are now before our readers. They will judge which is the original. Mr. Tefft was often assured by the ablest scientists of Europe, when conversing with him upon this subject, that an universal currency could never be employed without being connected with his name. Nor should it be. It is something deserving remembrance, and to be spoken of, that a young man, unheralded by the press, without the adventitious support of wealth or of influential patrons, should, by the force of his intellect, the quickness of his perceptions, and the power of adaptation, have simplified an intricate subject, supplanted doubt with faith, and won to an acceptance of his ideas the eminent economists of his day. What our government will do, or what will be done by the governments of Europe, is still an unsolved problem.* They may adopt the plan now laid before them, or they may reject it and continue in the old ruts of an incongruous currency. But whether they do or

*Since this was written, Spain has accepted the recommendation of the Paris Conference.

not, it is due alike to the subject of this paper, to the University that impressed its seal upon his honorable record, and to his native State, that these facts should pass into history. Truth demands that the name of Thomas Alexander Tefft should forever stand upon its pages as the author of a system of universal currency which in its leading features was reproduced in the plan proposed by the Paris International Conference of 1867.

The pleasant reception of Mr. Tefft in England and his enjoyment of its cultivated society have already been spoken of. A familiar letter, written by him to a friend in Providence, referring to this subject, was kindly placed in our hands after the printing of these pages had far advanced, and though received too late to be used in its appropriate place, is here inserted as interesting for its mention of celebrities and passing occurrences.

LONDON, November 7, 1857.

DEAR E.,

My visit to England has been exceedingly pleasant, and I trust very beneficial. I did not long remain here before I had occasion to meet some of my profession, and since then I have had plenty of friends.

After spending three months here in this smoky town, and learning some of its by-ways and suburbs, I left for the north, by the way of York and Durham—visited the valley of the Tweed, Edinburg, Aberdeen, Loch Lomond, Glasgow, &c. I think I can safely say that I know something of England, for I have studied its hills and heaths—its lakes and lawns, its cotton mills and iron steamers—mused on the quays of Liverpool over the booming of cannon that announces the coming and going of the great ships of the sea,—and watched the glaring blaze of Wolverhampton at night. I love old England for her heritage of great men's memories. I also love her beef and her iron. We live in an iron age, and England has the lead of the world in the facility of her coal and metals. Nevertheless, the "Great Eastern" has mortified her proprietors beyond measure, because she does not want to get into the nasty Thames! It was doubtless a distaste for filthy water that caused all the trouble! The abortive launching has cost seventy-five thousand pounds, and the best judges say it will cost £100,000, [$500,000!] more to get out of the scrape,—for such it is in one sense.

Two rather large failures for the scientific world in one year—the laying of the ocean telegraph and the launching of the Great Steamer.*

I went down the river the other night, next day after the launch, to see the sulky, gloomy monster. It was so foggy that St. Paul's could not be seen from the river, and the steamboat men had to keep a good look out to avoid running into things. It was the best day of the kind I have experienced here, and I enjoyed it much, although a friend said it was not much, and added that the cab men had to lead their horses always when they had a genuine dark day. But this was dark enough for me. I liked to see the old luggers passing out here and there; and then the view of London Bridge, the most graceful and grand work of its kind in the world—how it stretched away in the fog and smoke, deeply rumbling as the world goes to and fro upon its grand arches. After passing the bridge we had a glimpse of that old stronghold, the tower, with its stains of crime all over the gloomy pile; then at a certain landing we were made conscious by the name, that we were over the "*tunnel*," another abortive enterprise of our good English friends—for it hardly pays the expense of lighting. So on we went, past coal barges, and Dutch luggers, and screw steamers, and all sorts of rickety craft, till at length a dark mass began to loom up in the distance.

As we neared the great object of our visit, its huge mass could be seen just enough to take definite shape, and a more sad-looking gloomy being I never saw. All was silence now where but a few weeks before I had heard a thousand hammers; and when I saw it before, all was sunlight; now, all was dark and uncertain. It was truly a grandly melancholy sight; melancholy, because a bad launch is a bad omen the world over—and many there are who would never go down to the great sea in the Leviathan.

On Tuesday I sail for France. Shall I tell you of some acquaintances here? Cropsey, the American artist, is located here and is immensely successful. He takes a high position among the R. A. S. I dined there on Friday evening; met Mr. Mulready, one of the first

*It would doubtless have given Mr. Tefft great pleasure could he have foreseen that while the Great Eastern proved a failure for the purpose for which she was built, she was destined to render an excellent service in laying the Atlantic Cables; thus strengthening the assurance of continued amity between the United States and England and France.

artists here—a man of eighty, though hale and hearty and full of anecdote. He gave me some charming reminiscences of Charles Lamb, with whom he was familiar.

In the evening, Miss Mitchell, *our* astronomer*ess* was there, and we had a good chat about mutual friends, &c. She is here for a year or so. I hope to meet her again in Rome.*

To-day I took lunch with Ruskin, and had a good long talk about art matters. He has been extremely cordial to me. He lives with his father in a very nice pleasant manner—has some of the finest Turner water colors there are, and many other gems of art. Everything about his house is quiet and tasteful. He is a rather slender man with light hair and light eyes—wears slight side whiskers, and has the manner of a sensitive modest Christian man.

From Ruskin's, I went to dine a second time with Sir Charles Barry, who lives in considerable style—aye, princely magnificent style, for an architect, on the south side of London fronting on Clapham Common. Sir Charles is one of the truly great men; has completed one of the greatest of monuments in his own day; and though more than seventy, I think, is yet full of life and spirit, and makes drawings with his own hands which are exceedingly clever. He has honored me with much confidence; thinks much of a hint of mine about changing the location of the crystal palace, and kindly offers to put a design of mine in the Royal Academy next spring.

If you want some more personal, I will say, that I have been invited to give a paper before the Society of Arts when I return next year. I also start this time for the Continent with a letter from the Royal Institute of Architects, to all their foreign correspondents, and many wishes for a pleasant journey, with promises of a hearty welcome to old England when I return. I could tell you about some plans for the future which would please you, but I will let the matter rest till a future time.

William Duncan is here and will be in Paris and Rome, all of which I like. Buchanan Read is a right good fellow, and a good friend of mine. In fact I have a good time in prospect for life in Rome. May

*Mr. Tefft subsequently met Miss Mitchell in Paris, where, she writes, "I was under great obligations to him for little kindnesses at times when I most needed them, and heard of his death some years after with great sorrow."

God grant that I may have life and strength for all my plans and purposes, and direct me aright.

Yours, sincerely,

T. A. TEFFT.

It was a part of Mr. Tefft's plan to return once more to Rome, and then close up his three years' absence by visits to Greece and Egypt. He anticipated much benefit from the study of architecture in the land of Pericles and of the Pharaohs. But in this purpose he was disappointed. On his journey from Venice to Florence in the latter part of November, he took cold, which brought on a violent delirious fever that from the first baffled the best medical skill. He died December 12, 1859, receiving to the last the unwearied attention of the Sculptor Powers and family, and of others of his countrymen in Florence. It became the melancholy privilege of his friend, Albert J. Jones, Esq., to watch at his bed side, and to close his eyes in the sleep that on earth knows no waking.

The tender love of home cherished by Mr. Tefft kept fresh an instinctive shrinking from the thought of dying abroad, and of making his grave in a land of strangers. This feeling is touchingly expressed in the following lines written by him at Munich, May 17, 1859:

O let me never die in far off land,
  Where no familiar face shall come;
Where burning brow shall know no gentle hand,
  Or quickened ear no hallowed sounds of home!

* * * * * * * * * *

But rather 'mid the hills I love full well,
  Where childhood's scenes come stealing up to me;
Where I have felt the golden sunset spell,
  Where I have listened to the music of the sea;

Where many hours to solitude were given,
  Where I did live a stranger to all care,
Where I first learned to put my trust in heaven,
  O let my final resting place be there!

The tidings of his decease cast a deep shadow of sorrow upon many hearts in Rhode Island, while the press everywhere recognized the high promise of the departed, and the great loss sustained by the profession.* His remains were temporarily interred in the Protestant Cemetery under the walls of Florence. They were subsequently exhumed under the superintendence of Gen. Mallett, U. S. Commercial Agent at Florence, and were sent to his friends in Providence.

It was his request to be buried in Swan Point Cemetery, whose grounds he originally assisted to survey and lay out. In accordance with that wish his remains rest there beneath a monument constructed after one of his own designs. By a singular coincidence, his monument, and that of his Polish friend, Bohuszewicz,† which he also designed, mark the extremities of the path upon which they stand.‡

Mr. Tefft indulged delightful anticipations of a return to his native land, perfected in his professional studies, and prepared to contribute to its architectural reputation. Writing to a friend he says: "I shall rejoice when I set foot in Rome again. I have much important art work for the winter, and before spring you will hear from Pericles§ in matters very different from universal currency. My mission is art education, by means of building the best buildings, by writing and lecturing,—all of which I have constantly before me. And what treasures of resources I shall have when I return! How I long for the work." Says

*"Many hopes were disappointed by his early death. As a personal friend I esteemed him very highly, and being in Florence a few months after his decease, I felt that it was a tribute due to his memory, as well as a melancholly satisfaction to myself, to visit the chamber where he expired among strangers, not however, as I understood, without the tenderest care."—*Letter from President Caswell to the author.*

†Edward B. Bohuszewicz was born in Podolia, in Poland, 1813, and died in Providence, Sept. 18, 1848. He was a patriot exile, a gentleman of culture and refinement, and greatly endeared himself to a large circle of friends.

‡The monument in the "Pastor's Rest," at Swan Point Cemetery, was Mr. Tefft's first monumental design.

§The signature under which he corresponded with the *New York Times.*

one who met him in Rome, "Those walks along the Pincian, full of talk of art and dreams of the future, how they come back to me now! And he, the dreamer, the worker! His enthusiasm was contagious, and it was impossible to be much with him without feeling an interest in the subjects which so occupied his thoughts." But while thus busy in the prime object of his life abroad, and with the currency question, which he felt confident would yet command the practical recognition of the nations of the Old World and the New, "he was also preparing himself by careful investigation in the different countries he visited to report to the Legislature of his State upon Art as applied to Manufactures, for which purpose Governor Hoppin had given him a commission, which, through the courtesy of foreign governments, greatly facilitated his researches. This report would doubtless have possessed great value,—his artistic tastes and habits of close investigation peculiarly fitting him for the work."

In every fibre of his nature Mr. Tefft was an American, and his opportunities for contrasting the workings of the governments of the Old World with the New served but to intensify his attachment to his own. His hostility to oppression was as outspoken in the midst of its degrading fruits in Europe as at home, and no one felt a more honest pride than he in being able to say, "I am an American citizen." Yet he was not blind to oppressions that still lingered in his native land under the shadow of a Republican form of government. Especially alive was he to the great evil that has sadly proved to be the spring of our national troubles. Opposed to slavery from principle as repugnant to humanity, before leaving home the inconsistency of such an institution with the declaration of man's inalienable right to liberty became more glaring as he viewed it from across the Atlantic. In a letter touching these points, he says:

"When I remember the blessings of citizenship in our great country, and observe how the individual in these European States is hampered by the moral decrepitude around him, by the laws of birthright, and by military despotism, I confess I am overwhelmed with gratitude and a sense of duty which devolves up-

on every true American. And to an American in Europe, nothing seems more paradoxical than the slave institution in the midst of the freedom and progress of the United States. I assure you it seems incredible to me that human beings are still bought and sold like cattle within our Republic—that this foulest relic of barbarism is fostered and protected by free America alone of all the States claiming advanced civilization. Where is our moral rectitude as a nation? Where are our Christian statesmen? To me it seems that all our national troubles, our disgraces even, arise from this accursed Slavery. Demagogues rule the country because sober upright men are not fulfilling their duty."

It should be remembered that this was written in 1850, before signs of a purpose on the part of slave propagandists to make the institution the corner stone of a new republic or monarchy, as events might determine,. had been made visible, and he looked forward with hope to the inauguration of "some rational plan of slavery emancipation, conceived in generosity towards the South," that thenceforth "our country might move forward in a career of enlightened republicanism." Emancipation came—not in the manner it might had men wisely accepted the decree of an overruling Providence; but the history of its birth and triumph we do not propose to discuss.

Mr. Tefft was a frequent contributor to the press on his favorite topics. His views on Art Education are given at considerable length in a Report made by him to the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, in 1853. A series of critical papers on architecture written by him appeared in the *Crayon* for May, June and July, 1856. His lectures on Art not printed, some of which we are informed were lost in Europe, were regarded by those to whom they were privately read as showing maturity of thought and possessing much value. One of the most interesting and striking of his papers was a description accompanying designs and drawings for the Boston Opera House. It showed a wonderful familiarity with the proper form of such a structure and of interior arrangements for securing convenient and abundant audience room,—a capacious stage,

with the accessories of a green room and toilet rooms,—together with the best methods of warming, lighting and obtaining perfect acoustic effect. This merely business paper was really a profound treatise on this kind of architecture; and a house built upon such a model would in its interior finish and adaptedness rival the finest buildings of the class in Paris, Berlin, Dresden or Hanover. Mr. Tefft's style was perspicuous, never leaving the reader in doubt as to his meaning. He wrote poetry with facility and grace, and some of his pieces, particularly one on a child of his artist friend Cropsey, and another entitled "Windermere," are gems of their kind.*

To Mr. Tefft, Newport possessed charms that attached to scarcely any other locality in his native State. The names of Berkeley, Alexander, Malbone, Stuart, Allston, King, Stiles, Hunter and Channing had consecrated the place in his mind as a centre of intellectual culture, professional skill and high art. He looked upon its points of beauty with a poet's eye, and in its varied scenery, marine and suburban, found stimulant for aesthetic thought. He loved to stand upon the beach so world-famous, and watch the surf as it rolled majestically in, or listen to the roar of the mighty waves as they spent their force upon the rock-bound shore. To him there was music sweeter and grander in the murmur of the rippling tide or in the deep-toned storm-wind than mortal art had ever produced; and as these voices of nature fell upon his ear he seemed to be lifted into communion with the Infinite. But of all that so delighted him in his rambles and musings, one spot alone was exclusively coveted. Often had he rested there in the broad glare of day and in the gray shades of evening, watching the varied moods of the ocean, now calm and shimmering with silver light, and now lashed into dark and angry billows. For years it had been his secret

*Mr. Tefft delivered several lectures in public; among them one "On the Cultivation of a true Taste," before the Rhode Island Teachers' Institute; one on "Architecture, Ancient and Modern," before the Providence Association of Mechanics and Manufacturers; one on "Ventilation," before the Providence Young Men's Christian Union; and one embracing the early architecture of Newport, before the Historical Society of that city.

day-dream to become the owner of the bluff near "*Spouting Horn*," and there build for himself a rough stone house and tower for a summer home; where, escaping for a few weeks from the calls of his profession, he could with chosen friends enjoy the pleasures of social relaxation, and to use his own words, "see the sunsets, and sleep as close to the ocean as possible." But that dream he was not permitted to realize. Only in a pen-sketch is the ideal preserved. To those who felt the strength of his aspirations for the beautiful, the sublime and the pure, and were bound to him by ties of friendship, that spot will ever possess a new and abiding attraction. And as from season to season they stand where he loved to stand, and look upon the prospect that was swept by his unsated gaze, they will hear in the breeze that brings from far its healthful influence, and in the awe-awakening notes of the tempest-tossed waters, Nature's Requiem for departed genius, moral worth and manly ambition.

We have referred to the genius of Mr. Tefft. That he possessed this quality in a more than ordinary degree those most intimate with him bear testimony. He arrived at conclusions almost intuitively. On all subjects with which he professed familiarity his opinions were positive and freely expressed. His ideas on many topics were in advance of his time. This was particularly true in the departments of Architecture and Art. Without the morbid temperament of Haydon, his ideal of perfection was no less exalted, and his spirit chafed at the slow development of a taste for the beautiful in all things. In looking at a painting defective in perspective, coloring or expression, it was not easy for him to conceal his contempt for the handling of the artist. Harmony in finish filled him with exquisite pleasure, as incongruities awakened pain. His critical severity sometimes caused him to be misunderstood, and motives and feelings were attributed to him which were foreign to his nature.

The following critique, communicated to us by President James B. Angell, of the University of Vermont, at Burlington, expresses a just estimate of him as an architect:

"REV. E. M. STONE:

DEAR SIR—I made the acquaintance of Mr. Tefft when he entered college. We were fellow-students. From that time my relations with him were intimate. I think that he was one of the most highly gifted young men I have ever known. He early gave signs of marked talent, and his powers were constantly and rapidly increasing. Perhaps his developement was never before so rapid as during the last year of his life.

He was but a mere boy, just transferred from the seclusion of one of the most retired country towns of Rhode Island, when he conceived the plan of the great Railway Station in Providence. Whatever may be said in criticism of that building, it is a remarkable production for a youth who had enjoyed so few opportunities for training in his art. If I am not mistaken, it was the very first important structure in this country which demonstrated the feasibility of using American bricks with good effect in buildings of the Lombardo style. The Worcester Railroad Freight House, erected at the same time, has always seemed to me one of the best proportioned buildings in Providence. Of course profuse ornamentation would not have been proper on such a building. But there are abundant proofs in Providence, as in every city, that architects do not always find it easy to build great store-houses which are not positively ugly. These two railway stations illustrate one merit which belongs to nearly all of Mr. Tefft's buildings, the beauty and lightness with which his roofs rest upon the walls. Let any one stand on the promenade near the State Prison, and he will see what I mean. Many roofs seem to be crushing the walls out from beneath them. But the vast roof on that long station-house seems to lie almost as buoyantly as though it were floating in the air; a tent-covering rather than a heavy mass of timber and slate. It is a fine feature in a structure of such size. Intelligent Europeans familiar with continental architecture have spoken to me of it with admiration.

Mr. Tefft soon became what might be called a purist in architecture. A glance at almost any of his later works will convince one of this. His passion for severe simplicity became strong. In one so

young this was remarkable. I have always thought that he yielded too much to this tendency.* I believe that it was strengthened by his disgust at the meretricious work of some of our ambitious young American architects. I have no doubt that his life in Europe would have modified his views, and have led him to give more scope to his fruitful imagination in enriching his works. Had he lived five years longer, I am confident that he would have given us productions far superior to the numerous meritorious works which stand as monuments of his skill and taste. He had so much boldness and originality, such fertility of resources, such ingenuity in arranging details and overcoming mechanical difficulties, and such chasteness of style, that when his European studies had given him, as they surely would have done, more breadth and variety of treatment, he must have combined in himself the chief qualities of the great architect.

But Mr. Tefft's untiring mind was not confined within the limits of his profession. He was as fond of the sister arts of painting and sculpture as of architecture, and was eager to foster in the public a love for them. His activity in gathering the collection of pictures for the finest Art Exhibition which Providence ever enjoyed, and his ardent desire for the instruction of the people in the fine arts, attested by his bequest of nearly all his property to the Rhode Island Art Association, must be gratefully remembered by all. He had bestowed much thought upon the best mode of establishing a free public library in Providence. Indeed, I have rarely known a young man whose mind was so productive of plans for useful work or whose hand was so ready to aid in executing such plans.

I was hardly surprised at hearing of his brilliant labors in Europe, or his scheme for establishing an universal currency. It is clear that when he addressed himself to the problem, he studied with his usual zeal and with decided originality. But death seized him while his monetary plan and so many other plans with which his restless brain was teeming were yet unfinished.

I hardly dare to say how great things I think he was capable of, lest I should be deemed extravagant by those who did not know him as well as I. He seemed to be just entering on his best years for work. His growing mind had evidently not reached its culmination

*The Bank of North America, in Providence, a perfect gem in the Florentine palatial style, is a striking exception. The façade is perhaps the most beautiful of Mr. Tefft's works.

of power. His friends were certainly justified in expecting for him even a more brilliant career than that of which they had already so good reason to be proud. But, alas! who of them can forget the sad day, when all their hopes of his brilliant earthly future were suddenly quenched? Yet they sorrowed not "as others who have no hope." For the young architect in all his busy plannings had not forgotten 'the building of God, the house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.'"

A grouping of a few of the numerous testimonials called forth by Mr. Tefft's decease, will perhaps best express the common conception of him both at home and abroad.

His friend, Hon. J. B. Chapin, late State Commissioner of Public Schools, writes thus:

"My acquaintance with him dates from about the year 1850. He was then full of the courage and ardor of a young student. His sanguine nervous temperament kept both his physical and mental powers in full activity. He had about completed his college course and was entering upon his chosen profession with enthusiasm and high hope. I think he was one of the most ardent young men I have ever known—and no piling up of obstacles nor any amount of discouragement seemed to dampen his ardor. Every cloud in his horizon, however dark, had to him a silver lining. He very early avoided the mistake which so many young men are prone to make, by choosing an object in life; this object being to render the profession of architecture worthy of the devotion of the most gifted intellect and the highest culture. To the accomplishment of this he bent all the faculties of his mind and all the energies of his soul. He was, in no ordinary meaning of the term, *an architect*. Possessed of a fine mental organization—with broad and just views—a sound judgment—a refined and discriminating taste, quick to appreciate excellencies and to detect defects, and with a desire to bring to his aid all the rich and varied resources coming out of the experiences and successes of the great masters and acknowledged critics of the art, he gave unusual promise of splendid achievement. He loathed all violation of proper adaptation and good taste. He abominated all ornamentation merely for the sake of ornament. It was this feeling undoubtedly that influenced him to be a little too severe in his earlier designs. It was a

common expression of his, "I delight in ornamented construction, but constructed ornament I detest." He recognized the inevitable fitness of things, and in nothing more than in architecture. He had an intuitive perception of this fitness, and reached by a bound those results which most minds arrive at only after patient comparison and careful study. His thoughts became with remarkable facility operative ideas, and these ideas developed with great readiness and precision into concrete forms. With a clear perception and a high appreciation of the theory of art he combined a ready and practical skill. This peculiar quality of his mind gave him an insight into the mutual relations of theory and practice, hypothesis, design and explanation. As a draughtsman he was very rapid and accurate. In short, he already possessed, or was supplying himself with all the elements essential to the very highest attainment in his profession. That he was a man of genius no one who was capable of appreciating that quality and knew him intimately could doubt. He loved his work and prosecuted it with untiring industry. It was his delight to meet with those who recognized its power and could sympathize with him in his enthusiasm for it. Of such were his intimate friends, and among them he numbered as one of the choicest the late Prof. Dunn. With vulgarism, social or architectural, he had no fellowship. He fostered art, in its broadest and most refining influence. With him, as with everybody else, inexperience made some mistakes, but I apprehend that very few who have labored for so short a time have left so much that is beautiful and enduring.

Mr. Tefft had a morbid nervousness which sometimes betrayed him into a too severe denunciation of what he conceived to be a violation of good taste and propriety, and which made him a little restive under restraint. But if he was too quick to condemn a fault, he was also generous to acknowledge merit, however humble the source from which it sprang. A full estimation of his own resources never tempted him a step towards pedantry.

Notwithstanding his delicate organization and all his theoretical culture, Mr. Tefft was eminently a practical man. He very early conceived the idea of an uniform currency. During the years from 1853 to 1856 I used often to hear him speak of the establishment of such a system as one of the objects of his ambition. He hoped to have in Europe facilities for perfecting his plan and reducing it to practical operation. In this he was not disappointed, and had he lived he would

long ago have accomplished his purpose and have received by acclamation the honor of originating an undertaking so important in its practical results."

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Norton, wife of Professor Norton, of New Haven, Conn., writes:—"We made the acquaintance of Mr. Tefft while living in Providence, and saw him several times at our house in New Haven. The last visit he made us here I think must have been in 1855. I remember his speaking several times of his plan of a uniform currency for all nations, and his hope that he might accomplish something towards bringing it into action by his visit to Europe. He was full of enthusiasm with regard to his European trip, and as we had recently been in Europe, most of our conversation turned upon this subject. Mr. Tefft was a young man of great promise."

One who knew Mr. Tefft in Rome, after speaking of his life as "full of active employment, ennobled by high aspirations and religious faith," adds, "The night before he left will be long remembered. We sat late while he spoke of the immediate and far off future and of the past. We little thought it was to be our last interview; yet the possibility of that underlies all partings and often gives a deeper tone, a more earnest feeling, to last words. He spoke of his religious belief, his faith in Christ underlying and overtopping all his earthly ambitions! Beneath his ceaseless activity and ambitious plans there throbbed a high and noble purpose. This it was which endeared him to those who knew him best. This it is that will keep his memory freshest in their hearts."

"We know of few men," writes another, "who have died at his age whose career presents more encouragement to lads who are struggling in obscurity with the manly resolve to secure their highest development. His ardent zeal, which may sometimes have been excessive, his uprightness, his purity of life, his invincible perseverance, his unusual intellectual gifts,—these won for him friends and achieved his success."

Writes still another: "Mr. Tefft's own taste and skill in art were well known. His native love of beauty was great, and his

power of discriminating was refined and strengthened by careful observation and study. The aesthetic feeling was instinctive in him, as in all minds of similar organization, and contributed an essential element to the enjoyment of daily life. In a higher sphere that element has an unlimited expansion."

Mr. Tefft held memberships in the Rhode Island Historical Society, the Newport Historical Society, the Rhode Island Society for the Encouragement of Domestic Industry, the Rhode Island Art Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Franklin Lyceum, the Franklin Society, and several other scientific associations. A fine portrait of him painted from a photograph is in the possession of Mr. Carlton H. Rogers, of Rochester, N. Y.

It seemed early for one so full of promise to pass away. Yet brief as was that life, it was not without its compensations. Those fourteen years of labor and study, carried forward with undeviating enthusiasm, were not lost. They made an impression deeper and broader in the walks of Art and Architecture than even his personal friends imagined, and which perhaps could have been so soon known only by his premature decease. It may be said, we think, without disparagement, that few architects of riper age and longer experience have contributed more to the development of an aesthetic taste in Rhode Island. The creations of his mind and skill, which are scattered over this and other States, are still working powers in this direction, and are striking evidences of endowments enriched by studies abroad that were preparing him for the highest rank and the surest success in his profession.

CORRECTIONS.

PAGE 5.—After closing his studies with Mr. Baggs, Mr. Tefft kept the winter school in the "James District" in his native town.

PAGE 12.—The more accurate statement of Mr. Tefft's connection with the church is this:—At the age of 15 years he became the subject of a special religious interest then prevailing at Westerly, R. I. He was baptized by Elder Scott, and united with the Baptist church in Richmond, R. I. After establishing himself in Providence, he transferred his membership to the First Baptist Church in that city.

APPENDIX.

OUR DEFICIENCIES IN ART EDUCATION.

NOTE A.—PAGE 10.

[From Mr. Tefft's Report on Fine Arts, 1853.]

As a people we are very deficient in art education. We do not possess that pure discriminating taste that imparts to life one of its highes pleasures, and adds so materially to the wealth and dignity of a nation.

But this is readily accounted for. The practical must precede the ornamental, and the first thirty-eight years of peace have been devoted to those pursuits and enterprises that have resulted in an abundance of wealth and prosperity. This great question with many is no longer how to obtain the necessaries of life, but how to obtain its luxuries. We have only to look around us at any time to be convinced of this fact.

The erection of splendid public and private buildings, the decorating of dwellings with rich furniture, paintings, and other works of taste, the adoption of costly dress, and the display of riches in every way where necessity is but a mere apology for the outlay, shows the importance of taste. Taste is held up by every one as the guiding principle in all these indulgences, although caprice would, in many cases, be a better term. By taste we mean a nice discriminating perception, a power of fixing in the mind a refined and definite ideal of beauty and excellence. The cultivation of this power has been neglected. The study of literature or science as an accomplishment is far more general than the study of art; while the latter presents to the inquir-

er a field of unequalled attraction. The fact that we expend for works of taste about ten times as much as we do for any other luxury, should convince us that the mind or skill that forms the greater part of the value of these works is of some importance.

For the strongest proof that we do not possess a correct public taste, we have only to look at our public monuments, many of which vie in expense and pretension with similar buildings in the old world. If we examine the convenience and propriety of these works, many of them become highly absurd. We know of no instance where this is more evident than in the Smithsonian Buildings in Washington. Here is a most picturesque assemblage of towers and turrets, arches and ornaments, all beautiful enough in themselves, but without the least adaptation to the purposes of such an institution. Forget the country, and you pronounce it to be a convent at a glance. This is all wrong, the primal law of design, "expression of purpose," has been violated.

We might also point to many expensive churches, where it must have been the sole aim of the architect to re-produce a mediæval church on a miniature scale. This would be well enough if it was intended as a model only, but for a house of worship, for a Protestant church, is seems as much out of place as a surrounding ditch and drawbridge would be to a modern dwelling. Much of our street architecture has also assumed the same air of recklessness, sometimes so bold and clumsy as to be monstrous, sometimes weak and flimsy, and occasionally a copy of a good design misapplied.

If we turn to private dwellings we shall not find it all difficult to recall the appearance of some one that is overloaded with jimcracks, is wanting in unity of style, or is not in harmony with the spirit of the place. If you go beyond the threshold of many costly mansions you find that the same spirit prevails in the ornamentation and furnishing that marks the exterior. The ceiling is loaded with stucco enrichment, or set off with elaborate painting. The pictures are purchased in number and size to fit the walls, and the furniture throughout is of the richest patterns that can be imported; expense and quantity being considered instead of fitness and beauty of design.

America is proud of the achievements of her painters and sculptors, although many of these have had to struggle against discouragements incident to their own country, and now suffer from the want of a more appreciative taste in their patrons.

But it is in architecture and the ornamental arts that we are particularly deficient in skill and educated taste. Here we too frequently meet a class of persons that are ignorant of the true principles of art, and do not hesitate to favor the popular notions of taste.

The remedy for this, however, exists only in educating the community by persuading them that they can have their public buildings and dwellings, their furniture and all other decorations in good taste without incurring additional expense; that they can just as well have models of adaptation and consistency, which are of permanent value and beauty, as to have works that possess no interest beyond their extravagance and novelty.

To effect this education of the public mind, every city should have its permanent museum of art. This should consist of a few excellent works in every department of painting, sculpture and the useful arts. For instance, there should be portraits, landscapes, ideal compositions, historical pictures, (especially of local interest,) casts of the celebrated antiques, and of the best modern works in sculpture; prints and drawings of the best of examples in civil, sacred, and domestic architecture; specimens of stucco ornaments; wood carving; the principal articles of furniture, including carpets, upholstery, mirror frames, paper hangings, specimens of designs for prints and the richer textile fabrics; examples of book illustrations and every kind of engraving; fine specimens of silver work and jewelry; designs or models of stoves, mantels and gas fixtures, and all other articles which are influenced in their value or beauty by the application of artistic skill.

Such an institution, if made as interesting and popular as it might be, would not only become the pride and boast of a city or State, but it would work a revolution in the tastes and habits of a community that must be realized in order to be duly estimated. Its effect would be to elevate the standard of taste; and in doing this it would call forth, in the different departments of art, a higher grade of talent than has yet been devoted to those professions.

Another important requisite of a highly cultivated taste would be manifested in schools of ornamental art, where workmen would be taught to mingle artistic skill with every kind of ornamental workmanship, thus enhancing the value of home manufactures till we should begin to diminish the enormous tax of our importations. It is of no use to manufacture an article until it is demanded in the market. And no American school of ornamental art will prosper

until the present servile taste is succeeded by one sufficiently correct and national, to prefer American productions to foreign when the former are the best. This we all know is not the case at present; we bow submissively to fashion, and she sends forth her edicts from beyond the sea. France has the market of the world in all works of taste and fancy, and it has been obtained legitimately. Under all changes of governments, institutions for the promotion of art have been fostered with the greatest care, until it may be well said that the whole wealth and prosperity of France lies in her ornamental art manufactures.

INDEX.

Alexander, Prof. J. H., 16, 17, 42
Atwell, Winthrop, 24
Arrivabene, Count, letter from, 26
Akers, Paul, at Rome, 28
Adams, John Quincy, 42

Barry, Sir Charles, notice of, 12, 15, 45, 46
Baggs, Elisha L. 4
Barnard, Hon. Henry, 6
Barrett, Rev. Alfred, paper read by, 33
Battle news at Turin, 32
Bell, John, 19
Benjamin, J. P. 19
Bennett, Mr. 12
Bismark, Count, 24
Bohuszewicz, Edward B. 48
Brown, W., paper read by, 33
Brown, S., " " 33
Brougham, Lord, 33
Bromby, Rev. C. H. paper read by, 33
Browning, Robert, 28
Bucklin, James C. 3, 6, 10

Caswell, President Alexis, letter of, 6, 48
Cass, General, 19
Cavour, Count, letter from, 22, 24
Chandler, His Ex. Joseph R. 24
Combe, George 15
Cobb, Howell, 19
Crittenden, JohnJ. 19
Cropsey, the artist, 12, 45
Cushman, Charlotte, 28

Dale, Thomas N., 17, 18, 24
D'Aubigne, Merle, 20
Delille, M. 24
Duncan, William, 46
Dupin, M. 43
Donaldson, Mr. 12

Fay, Hon. Theodore S., letter from 39
Fazy, President 29
Fessenden, Hon. William Pitt, 19
Fish, Ex-Gov. Hamilton, 12
" " " letter from, 19, 24, 27
Franklin, J. A. 16

Gallatin, Albert, 42
Garibaldi, 26
Gorham, Mr. 42
Great Eastern, 44, 45
Greene, Prof. Geo. W. letter of, 7
Greenough, the sculptor, at Rome, 28
Gromort, M. 24

Hamilton, Alexander, 42
Hawthorne, Nathaniel, 28
Hastings, 12
Hennessy, Prof. Henry, 16, 23
Hill, Rowland, 23
Hôtel, Métropole, 29
Hosmer, Harriet, 28
Humboldt, Baron Von, 24, 33
Hunter, Mr. 19

International Library, 27

Jefferson, Thomas, 42
Jones, Albert J. 47
Jones, Arthur William, 16
Jones, Owen, 12
Jones, J. Glancy, 19

Kingsbury, Hon. John, letter of8– 10
Krafft, M. 24

Lamb, Charles, 46
Letter from a Royal Commissioner 16
Levi, Prof. 23

Mason, Hon. J. Y., letter from, 20, 23
Mallett, General, 48
Marchase, Prof. 24
Mason, Rev. Charles, 24
Meekins, T. C. Mossom, 16
Mitchell, Maria, 46
Moran, Benjamin, 12
Morse, Professor, dinner to, 24
Moustier, Marquis de, 41
Munroe, Esq., John, 24
Mulready, Mr. 46

Napoleon, Emperor, 24
Napoleon, Prince Jerome, 41
Napier, Lord, 19

Parkes, Mr. Joseph, 12
Parker, Rev. Theodore, letter from 21
Pastor's Rest, Monument in, 48
Paris Monetary Conference, 40–44
Parieu, M. de 41, 42
Pateck & Philipe, watch makers, 29
Peabody, George, 12
" " letter from, 20
Pearce, James, A. 19
Powers, Hiram, 47
Preston, Col. John S. 24

Rathbone, Theodore, paper read by 33
Read, Buchanan, 46
Richy, L. A. 17, 24
Rottermund, Count, 23
Rothschild, Baron James, 24
Ruggles, Hon. Samuel B. 41, 42
Ruskin, 12, 46

Sargent, Mr. 12
Scott, George Gilbert, 12
Seely, Rev. R. H. 24
Seward Gov. W. H. 19
Sherman's Report, 42
Slater, Robert, 15
Smith, J. B. 23
Spencer, Hon. W. W. 24
Spencer, Hon. John C. 25
Stockbridge, Rev. Dr. 8
Sumner, Hon. Charles, 24

Tefft, Thomas Alexander, birth of, 4
Homestead of, 4
School Days of, 4
Keeps School, 5
Fond of Music, 5
His Penmanship, 5
His Independence, 3
Comes to Providence, 6
Enters College, 6
Characteristics as a student, 6–8
Designs School Building, 8
Boston and Providence Depot, 10
Other buildings, 11
Graduates, 11
Unites with the Church, 12, 58
Director in Art Association, 11
Sails for Europe, 12
Gratifying reception in London 12
Parliament House, his account of, 12–15
National Capitol, his criticism of, 14, 15
His Monetary System, 15
Prints his pamphlet, 17
M. Richy translates it, 17, 24
Noticed by London Times and other journals, 17
Dines at Crystal Palace, 23
Meets a party at J. Yates's, 23
Goes to Paris, 23
Speaks at a dinner given to Prof. Morse, 24
Distributes his Monetary Pamphlet, 24
Interested in the Italian cause, 26
Receives a letter from Count Arrivabene, 26
Proposes a plan for an International Library, 27
Visits Rome, 28
Models a Type of American beauty, 28
Returns to France and visits Switzerland, 39
Describes Geneva, 31
Remarks on his Life in Europe, 31
Goes to Turin, 32
Incidents there, 32
Visits Magenta, 32
Travels into Lombardy; visits Berlin; proceeds to Russia; returns to England and reads a paper on Universal Currency before the Institute of Social Science; its success; his plan stated, 33, 34–39
Recommends a Monetary Congress, 49
Visits Scotland, 44
Lunches with Ruskin, 46
Meets Mr. Mulready, 46
Plans to revisit Rome; designs to study Architecture in Greece & Egypt; taken sick, dies at Florence; poetry on dying abroad, 47
Remains interred at Swan Point Cemetery, 48
Estimate of his character, genius and labors, 48

Vattemare, Alexander, 23, 27

Walbold, Mr. 30
Walley, Professor, 23
Webster, Mr. 12
Wright, Hon. Joseph A., 33, 34

Yates, James, 16, 23, 33